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TO OUR READERS:

In compliance with the Israeli military authorities, and under the guise of the much criticized "Emergency Regulations" of 1945, Al-Fajr is required to submit all material prepared for publication in this weekly, and also in the Arabic Daily and Bi-Weekly Hebrew Edition, to the Israeli censorship authorities, who use this blanket authority excessively. The material appearing on pages labeled with letters has all been censored and expunged by the Israeli authorities. We found it necessary and relevant to publish it on these pages in the foreign edition.

MO1015 forces smaller fields, fewer crops

Israeli military authorities in the West Bank began, as of the middle of September, to implement Military Order 1015 to reduce areas available for cultivation of tomatoes and eggplants by 20 percent over the previous year. The measure has been strongly criticised by Palestinian farmers, and many have filed complaints with the Military Objections Committee.

The military order, which was issued last June, gives — for reasons of public safety and military security — the military governor the power to specify the areas for growing the crops. He set the tomato zone at 9000 dunums and eggplants at 5000 dunums, down from 6000 dunums from the previous year.

A memorial mass for Cardinal Terence Cook, cardinal of New York, will be held at the Notre Dame Cathedral in Jerusalem, Tuesday, October 11 at 6:30 pm.

Cardinal Cook, 62, died October 6 of leukemia.

A funeral mass will be held in New York for Cardinal Cook, Tuesday, October 11.

The order mainly affects the Jiftik area in the Jordan valley, which produces between 60 and 70 percent of the total production of the two crops.

Orders to enforce the new regulation were sent to every agricultural department office in each area. Under its terms, farmers must get permits before planting the two crops. The permit specifies the area of the total land plot a farmer is allowed to plant.

Wahid Maari, a farmer from Nablus who planted 60 dunums annually, was allowed to plant only 48 dunums this year.

The military order, which the Israelis say was enacted to "organise production," was rejected by the majority of Arab farmers who possess land in the Jordan valley area. Many farmers, especially those affected by the order, filed complaints with the Military Objections Committee in Beit El, near Ramallah, and six prominent landowners have formed an Arab Vegetables Council to represent growers to the Israeli authorities.

Since July, the six-member council held several meetings

with the Israeli officer in charge of agriculture. They also held one meeting with the Israeli Vegetables Council at the Nablus agriculture department office where they explained the harm which the Israeli authorities had done by Military Order 1015. One prominent member of the Arab Vegetables Council who did not want his name published said the council succeeded in reducing restrictions on production and exports. He explained that the authorities wanted to restrict plantation to less than one-fifth of the previous three years' average, but through their intervention they succeeded in reducing the area by only 20 percent. He further said that they made complaints against the high fees for export permits.

The authorities charge over JD50 per shipment. The source said that the authorities "promised" to review the issue. He added, however, that he does not know whether fees were actually reduced or not. Another member of the committee said there was no change in the fees.

"The authorities also promised to allow export trucks to operate freely, even during travel restriction periods," he went on.

Palestinian agricultural experts say that in principle they have no objection to managing production according to crop, but they do not believe Israeli claims and insist that the underlying motive behind the measure is to encourage Israeli production over that of Palestinians.

Fahmi Nahhas, a Jericho landowner, told Al Fajr that the Israeli education officer in his area has made it clear that the motive is to give Israeli settlers in the Jordan valley area an advantage in production and marketing. He explained that during the past two years, competition between Palestinian and Israeli production was at its height. The Israeli authorities intervened on behalf of Israeli producers and prevented Arab products from being marketed in Israel.

Palestinian experts also refuted the Israeli authorities' "public propaganda" that the restriction serves "to balance production with the marketing capacity." One Jericho agricultural engineer who did not want his name published said that such central planning is beneficial "only as part of national economic policy." He further said

that the military order was issued without a scientific study in order to reduce production only in areas in which other crops are economic. The engineer pointed out the one advantageous side effect of tomato and eggplant production is that it combats salinity in the soil and water in the Jiftik area. He said other areas where the soil and water do not contain high levels of salt could be used for growing other products.

Palestinian farmers fear that the recent measure is the beginning of a series of restrictions against them. One farmer said he got a glimpse of a draft for a new military order concerning citrus trees. The farmer said he could not read what the order contained.

The fertile Jordan valley area is one of the main targets of the Israeli occupation authorities. The Labour Alignment had the region marked for annexation within the Alon scheme, which advocates that the region is "strategically important for Israel for both security and agricultural reasons." The region now contains more than 20 Israeli kibbutzim.

PLO OFFICES SEE PERSONNEL CHANGES

A number of personnel changes in PLO offices in Europe are to take effect in the next few days. PLO Paris representative Ibrahim Souss has been transferred to Dakar, Senegal, and will be replaced in the French capital by Issam Kamal, who in past years was responsible for the Palestinian representation in the German Democratic Republic.

In Rome, Abd al-Fatah al-Qalquili, until now PLO representative in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, will replace Nimr Hamad, transferred to Prague,

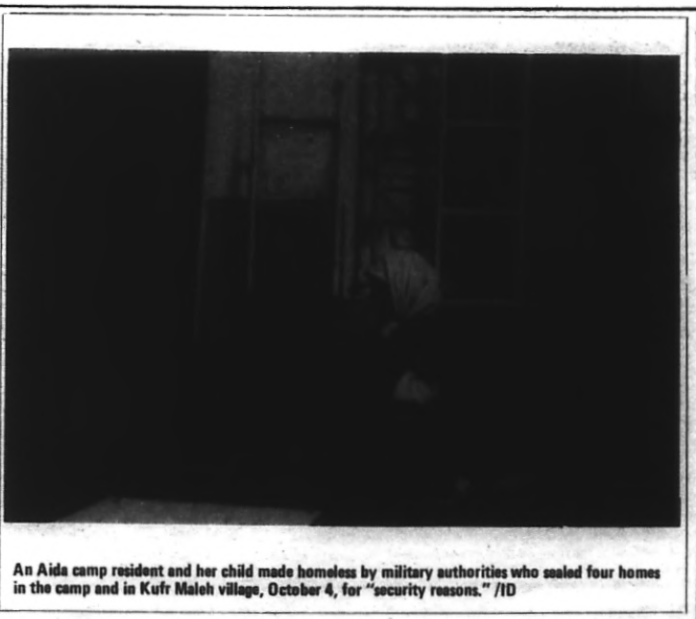
Czechoslovakia.

Ahmad Sheikh has been transferred from Bucharest, Hungary, to New Delhi, India, while Shakhir Abu Nizar, until recently the secretary of the Fatah Revolutionary Council, will now head the PLO office in Moscow.

The changes, at least one of which was decided prior to the siege of Beirut, are described officially as conforming to last February's resolutions of the Palestinian National Council on the reorganisation in the PLO.

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An Aida camp resident and her child made homeless by military authorities who sealed four homes in the camp and in Kufri Maleh village, October 4, for "security reasons." /ID

SEVEN ISRAELIS WOUNDED

Palestinian attacks against Israeli military targets increased considerably this week, according to Israeli press reports. The Israeli daily *HaAretz* military correspondent wrote from the front, October 6, that the western sector of South Lebanon witnessed a noticeable increase in operations conducted by Palestinian forces against Israeli targets. He said that "literally not one day passes without at least one military operation taking place."

Seven Israeli soldiers were wounded in a series of attacks by the joint Palestinian-Lebanese forces in South Lebanon between September 29 and October 4.

The most serious occurred October 1, when a commando unit attacked an Israeli tank east of Sidon with bazooka shells. *Agence France Presse* quoted Lebanese eyewitnesses who said the tank was directly hit and that three of its crew were wounded. An Israeli military spokesman admitted the inci-

dent, but claimed that there were no casualties.

Foreign correspondents later reported that Israeli helicopters combed the area for the attackers, but there were no reports of any arrests.

Two days later, two soldiers were wounded when a booby-trapped car exploded as their jeep passed it. The soldiers, whose wounds were described by Israeli newspapers as "light," were evacuated to hospitals in Israel.

On the evening of the same day, an Israeli military spokesman reported that two remote-controlled bombs exploded as two jeeps passed on a dirt road near Jib-Jnin, in eastern Lebanon. The spokesman claimed that there were no casualties.

The Israeli army suffered two more casualties on October 4. *AFP* reported that the incident occurred in the morning in the Abbassiyah region, north of Tyre.

The report said that two military vehicles were showered with bullets and shells when they ran into a commando ambush. One of the two vehicles, a transport truck, was badly damaged. Israeli troops later besieged the area and conducted a manhunt.

The latest attack, according to Israeli reports, occurred against a convoy of Israeli tankers some five kilometres east of Tyre. The report said that RPG rockets and small arms fire were used. They claimed there were no casualties.

Earlier in the week, an Israeli military spokesman announced three other attacks.

The *Jerusalem Post* reported, October 5, that large quantities of arms and explosives are being infiltrated into territories controlled by the Israeli army over the three bridges that span the Awali River behind which the Israeli army is entrenched.

Indecision Surrounds Lebanon Cease-fire

ROME—While each party ostensibly prepares for the next phase of the war, at the same time publicly enthusiastic about the so-called reconciliation talks, the 179th cease-fire in Lebanon's last eight years continues to be surrounded by a climate of indecision and precariousness. Under the surface, however, facts which will not fail to influence the future are being rapidly established.

On the military level, exchanges of artillery fire between Druze-led resistance forces and Lebanese army positions flanked by remains of the Phalangist-dominated "Lebanese Forces" have continued around the two strategic towns of Souq al-Gharb and Deir al-Qamar, and in the Shouf southernmost province of Eklim al-Kharub. In the towns, each side has been consolidating its own positions, improving its trenches, reinforcing its defences. In Eklim al-Kharub, a predominantly Sunni Muslim-populated area of the Shouf which controls access to the Israeli-occupied south, the resistance forces are intent on eroding the Phalangist pockets in the villages of Ain al-Hawr and Burjein, which were

aided by the intervention and subsequent protection of Israeli forces. The constant shelling is so much part of the situation on the ground that no one seriously considers it even a violation of the cease-fire.

A similar, although more potentially explosive, situation has reigned throughout the week on the southern periphery of Beirut, where the army has repeatedly attempted to erode the defences of the Shi'ite mini-republic but was pushed back. On Monday, the battles in this area, in particular in the sectors of Shi'a and Ghobeiri, attained a new intensity, with the army putting into action the tanks' artillery to fire on Shi'ite bazooka and light arms positions. Under the pretext that "a group of 300 Shi'ite militiamen from the Beqa'a, belonging to a pro-Syrian force directed by Hussein Mussawi, infiltrated into south Beirut," the US Marines command also declared a state of alarm, on request from the Lebanese Army. However, shooting in the area became sporadic, October 4, and what the Lebanese like to call "a relative calm" seemed to be reigning in south Beirut.

AFTER TEN DAYS OF CEASE-FIRE

National Reconciliation Debated

by Livia Rokach
Our Rome Correspondent

Ten days after the proclamation of the cease-fire agreement, not only is there not the least indication whether, where and how the so-called reconciliation conference of all the warring parties will take place, but the sensation is growing that the Lebanese right is determined to prevent even an initial attempt at convening such a conference. Through the past week, the leaders of the National Salvation Front, which unites most opponents of the Gemayel regime, have made it clear that national reconciliation cannot be considered just a slogan under which everything will end up by remaining just as it was. National reconciliation can only be based on a recognition by the minority which has ruled until now, that it is indeed a minority; by the granting to the majority of citizens their fundamental rights as citizens; and by the setting up of national institutions based on the real balance of forces between the various communities.

In other words, national reconciliation cannot be achieved through verbal shortcuts but only on the basis of radical reforms which would finally place Lebanon in the real world. Thanks to the political hegemony, masked in confessional terms, a privileged social cast disclaims even the historical and cultural heritage of the majority of the people. But these demands are in fact rejected *a priori* by the "Lebanese Forces" whose leaders, on the other hand, are realistically aware that their only hope of maintaining their medieval-type design lies in the military support of the West. All the tricks invented through the last week to thwart the convocation of a conference have been directed to legitimate a renewed Western military presence.

On Thursday, September 29, 55 out of 96 types who call themselves parliamentarians passed a resolution "calling on the Lebanese government to send

the army immediately into the Shouf area" controlled by the Druze-led resistance forces. The resolution, promoted by Kamel Asa'ad, the Shi'ite feudal lord whose participation in the future negotiations had been vetoed, was quickly discovered to be not only illegal but also not binding on the executive. But it is clearly intended to create a climate of incitement against the cease-fire agreement and to encourage the military to provoke a crisis which will prevent the negotiations. Against such an eventuality, on Sunday Walid Jumblatt declared in Beit Eddin the institution of a civil administration in the Druze Shouf and Aley regions to be based on a structure of self-management by the population through five popular committees.

For the past 40 years, the Maronite regime in Beirut has been altogether absent from the Druze as well as other Muslim areas of Lebanon, in terms of social, economic and cultural development. Jumblatt's proposition, therefore, contains a precise allusion to what the National Salvation Front means when it refers to the process of national reconciliation in terms of "more balanced forms of government."

The Beirut regime, however, deliberately pounces on the announcement of the civil administration with statements describing Jumblatt as a secessionist inspired by "Syria's desire to partition Lebanon." Amin Gemayel obviously knows that this accusation is untrue, but his brother-in-law, Fady Frem, who commands the Phalangist militias, explains to an Italian reporter: "We want the multinational force to press Jumblatt into changing his position. For us, the balance of forces in Lebanon is a question of survival...the most we can give the Muslims is 50 percent of the seats in Parliament. There is no question of conceding anything beyond that."

"Do you mean that you want the supercannons of the New Jersey to shoot at the Shouf?" the reporter asks, and is answered, with obvious rish: "And why not?"

In the past two days, the Lebanese government has been sitting almost uninterrupted in "emergency meetings" in which the army's chief commander, General Ibrahim Tannus, was present. The army's Phalangist leadership undoubtedly favours a government decision in the above-described direction. But are the Western powers involved in Lebanon ready to give the Phalangist powers and General Tannus their green light today, before even the slightest attempt at a show of a political dialogue?

Italian government officials explicitly rejected what they defined as "the confusion made in Beirut between regional civilian autonomy and political secession," thus seemingly rebuffing the Gemayel regime's propagandistic efforts and holding the door open for discussions with the Lebanese National Salvation Front. The European parties to the MNF at present point all their efforts at trying to obtain a consensus for their military observers to go into the Shouf under the guise of a United Nations Peacekeeping Force so as to on the one hand overcome domestic opposition to the enlargement of the role of the MNF and on the other hand fend off American pressures for such an enlargement. Therefore, they want the cease-fire to last as long as possible, or at least until such efforts would prove definitely futile.

Syria, however, has already made known its firm rejection of the proposal as, clearly, observers coming from such countries could not honestly be considered as neutral even if formally disguised as UN troops. The Lebanese resistance front, whose con-

Israel Builds Assault Airstrips in Lebanon

ROME—Lebanese official media revealed, October 4, that the Israeli army has begun the construction of a new military airport on the hilltop dominating the Sidon-Jezzine road at Anan. While massive ground levelling works are going on in preparation for the airstrip, according to these reports, a large amount of prefabricated construction is being rushed to the site. The new airport is expected to be completed in 15 days.

The sources point out that in the past two weeks another

airstrip has also been under construction by the Israeli army near Kham, in the Haddad-controlled area. The reports have raised speculation in Beirut that the Anan airport may be designed to function as logistical support for the Gemayel regime air force and/or for American bombers in view of a renewal of the hostilities in the mountain areas. The construction of both airports, in addition to other airstrips already built by the Israelis in the occupied areas, involves costs evaluated in the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Beirut Camps Fend Off Phalangists

ROME—Phalangist commandos attempted an assault, September 29, on Shatila camp and had already kidnapped three camp residents, tied their arms and were hauling them into a car when soldiers from the Italian contingent, called over from a nearby checkpoint by women from the camp, intervened to free them.

The three Palestinians, a war invalid and two youngsters, were accompanied to their homes by the Italian military. When the news got around, the camp population insisted on organising a

"thanksgiving party" for the saviours. The crowd of long-suffering Shatila people, mothers with babies in arms, old men and women, children of all ages, encircled them, brought flowers and home-made sweets, called out the few Italian words mastered in these months and sang.

The episode, exceptional only in that the action to thwart the Phalangist assault had been quick and firm, well illustrates the climate of terror and anxiety reigning at all hours in Beirut's Palestinian camps.

The immediate goal seems that of attempting to assemble a grouping of observers from relatively neutral European states related to both west and east as a counter-project to that of the MNF countries. The response to Jumblatt and the reaction of Beirut to his initiative will thus be fateful factors in determining the next phase of events in Lebanon.

IN THE JORDAN VALLEY

HOMES MARKED FOR DEMOLITION

Israeli military authorities notified, September 27, more than 40 families living in shacks and mud houses in the Jiflik area, in the Jordan valley, to leave their houses which are to be demolished. The threatened families say they were not given any explanation for the measure.

Sources close to the threatened families assert that the condemned houses are the homes of small farmers, some of whom are refugees, and some shacks used as temporary shelters by farmers during the harvest season.

Residents from the area, mainly the Marj No'ajeh village which consists of shacks or half-

ruined houses inhabited by refugees since 1948, say that Israeli soldiers and policemen have been visiting the area, famous for its agriculture, and marking the shacks for demolition.

Agriculture experts say that Israeli authorities circulated an order several years ago prohibiting the construction of houses in that area. The measure had in fact been enforced without a specific military order.

The Jordan valley area is rich in land suitable for growing winter vegetables and tropical fruits. Much of it was grabbed by the Israelis shortly after 1967. There are 20 settlements, mainly kibbutzim, in the area.

Energy Ministry trespasses on JEC

Infringements by the Israeli ministry of energy of the Jerusalem Electric Company's (JEC) area of jurisdiction continue with the opening of a solar power plant near the Dead Sea.

The latest row erupted when Israeli papers said, October 2, that the JEC and the ministry had signed an agreement by which the JEC would get supplies from the plant, built in its area of jurisdiction.

Anwar Nusseibeh, former Jordanian minister of defence and head of the company, flatly denied the report. He was quoted as saying there are no agreements on anything and that the JEC has protested to the Israeli government about the plant. He added that the company is still conducting the research, despite the protest.

In a telephone interview with *Al Fajr*, the deputy spokesman of the Israeli ministry of energy insisted that an agreement does exist but the spokesman noted that it has not been put into effect. She explained that according to the agreement, the solar plant, which is still in the experimentation stage, will give

electricity exclusively to the JEC.

She explained that the two-year-old Dead Sea generators are run by the ministry of energy. The Jerusalem company receives 80 percent of its electric supplies from the Israeli electric grid.

In its report, *Al Hamishmar* claimed that its correspondent was told by "reliable sources" that the JEC received the PLO's clearance before signing the agreement.

Last week, Israeli newspapers disclosed that Israeli President Chaim Herzog held a secret meeting with Anwar Nusseibeh. The meeting concentrated on "current political issues," the papers reported.

The JEC, which is solely responsible for supplying the Jerusalem, Ramallah, Bethlehem and Jericho areas, including villages in each area as well as settlements built on Arab lands, has been under Israeli pressure for several years. The Israeli ministry has tried several times to take over the company and has repeatedly violated its concession areas with lines from the Israeli grid.

Calligraphy, culture on exhibit at BU



On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of Bethlehem University, the departments of Arabic and Social Sciences sponsored an impressive display of Arabic calligraphy and Palestinian folk art. The exhibition was opened on September 30

with an address by prominent local calligrapher Mohammed Siam, whose work was on display. Housed at opposite ends of a refurbished cinema hall on campus, the calligraphy and folk art displays were aimed "at helping preserve our ethnic identity, especially under the conditions

of occupation," in the words of Dr. Diab Ayoush, professor of sociology and one of the prime movers behind the project.

The calligraphers, both professional and amateur, exhibited work on both religious and national themes. The folk art exhibit consisted of displays of traditional dress, embroidery and painting and a recreation of a traditional home. The cookware, a bridal box, farming implements and dried food were collected from Bethlehem and the nearby village of Batir.

Hundreds viewed the three-day exhibit, including several school groups. Children, said Dr. Ayoush, must be educated in the "cultural links between our past and present."

INDUSTRIAL EXHIBIT TOPS OFF PALESTINE WEEK

Three Jerusalem clubs and 33 companies, workshops and factories in the West Bank exhibited their products at a five-day show at the Arab Chamber of Commerce, Jerusalem, October 1 to 5.

The exhibit included sections for books, post cards, cassettes of nationalist songs, textiles, sweets, electronics, nails and screws, stainless steel pots, saw blades, instruments for the medically handicapped, ceramics, glass, olive wood carvings and other materials.

The saw blades factory

was exhibiting for the first time. The Salameh Brothers plant, founded two years ago, is the only one of its kind in the Arab world.

An exhibit of pictures of Sabra and Shatila was opened at the Muwazafin club hall in Jerusalem.

Ibrahim Dakkak, the chairman of the West Bank Engineers Association, formally opened the exhibit for 50 guests at 3:00 pm.

The supervisory committee, Hamid Qarin of the Silwan club, Fadwa Labadi of the Muwazafin club and Yusef Quneibi of

the Thori club, told *Al Fajr* that the exhibit comes after a long period of inactivity and is part of the annual Palestine Week which each club usually celebrates. They affirmed that the collective activity is better organized and expresses the unity between the institutes. The festival included 300 books on art, literature, politics and sociology.

Two basketball matches between the three clubs and other institutes, part of the Palestine Week, are scheduled for October 6. The exhibit is scheduled to end with a festival of *dabkeh*, plays and national songs.

JERUSALEM YOUTH STABBED

Yusef Shaban, a 17-year-old Palestinian youth, was stabbed to death, October 4, by an Israeli assailant after an argument on a bus in Jerusalem.

The murdered Jerusalem youth was riding the bus in West Jerusalem in the middle of the afternoon when he got into an argument with an Israeli passenger. When the two got off the bus in the centre of town the Israeli took out a knife and stabbed Shaban twice.

The body of the deceased youth was laid to rest at the cemetery near Lion's Gate after



a massive funeral through the East Jerusalem streets.

Zvi Rotem, the spokesman of the Jerusalem police, told *Al Fajr* that the police arrested late October 5 an Israeli youth suspected of having carried out the stabbing. Rotem could not reveal the name of the youth

because he is a minor (16 years old). He told *Al Fajr* that police are unclear about the circumstances that led to the death of Yusef. The Israeli youth says that three Arab youths argued with him and when he left the bus a youth pulled out a knife and tried to stab the Israeli, but, he said, he was able to force the knife away and use it to stab the Arab youth.

The Arab youths, however, told police investigators that the murder weapon belongs to the Israeli youth and that he pulled it out from his own pocket.

'SHOW CAUSE' ORDER ON QUARRY'S DESTRUCTION

The Israeli High Court issued an interim order, October 4, requiring the Hebron military commander and the 'civil administration' to show cause why they should destroy the partially built stone-cutting plant of a Hebron resident.

The quarry owner, Faisal Falah, received a building permit from the Arab municipality of Hebron back in August 1982. After starting the building, however, the Israeli 'civil administration' informed him that his permit was "invalid." They claimed the area where he was working was outside the jurisdiction of the Hebron municipality.

Falah followed a 'civil administration' suggestion and applied to the West Bank Higher Planning Council - an Israeli-controlled body. His application was turned down, allegedly because the area is agricultural and commercial construction is

forbidden.

Falah then turned to the Israeli High Court, pointing out in his petition that the area already has 24 stone-cutting plants and 30 other commercial premises. He charged that the various Israeli bodies in the West Bank are acting "solely in the interest of near-by Kiryat Arba settlement," which is trying to expand in the direction of his property.

The state attorney used the same argument as the Higher Planning Council, but the court was not satisfied.

Hebron's deposed acting mayor, Mustafa Natshe, explained to *Al Fajr* that in 1977 the municipality started making arrangements to extend its jurisdiction to the area in mention because of the vital need for an industrial zone. "We fulfilled all the requirements: land survey,

announcement for objections and area details to the tax department, in order to collect municipal taxes," he explained. He said that in 1980, after all judicial requirements were met, Ezer Weizman, the then Israeli defense minister, came to the area and opened it as a *bona fide* industrial zone belonging to the Hebron municipality. Residents were issued building permits and paid municipal taxes without any problem until last year, when the Kiryat Arba settlement decided that it needed to expand in the direction of the industrial zone. "All of a sudden the Israeli authorities claimed that the area was not part of Hebron's jurisdiction because the military commander had not yet officially signed the jurisdiction extension order. The army came and built a military settlement on part of the area," said Natshe.

No-construction order for Kiryat Arba environs

The newly-appointed municipality in Hebron, headed by Israeli officer Zahir Shemesh, has stopped issuing construction licences in two neighbourhoods close to the settlement of Kiryat Arba. *Al Hamishmar* reported, October 2, that Palestinians are not given permits in Ain Bani Sleim and Bir Mahjar areas.

Mustafa Natshe, the dismissed deputy mayor of Hebron, told *Al Fajr* that there are many applications which have been refused. Natshe said that Israeli authorities are rejecting building

plans on the basis that some city areas are not within the official municipal boundaries. The deputy mayor, removed from office for opposing settlement in his city, said the Israeli claim is false. Hebron's boundaries were determined in 1966. Permits have been issued to Hebron residents in the areas in question for 25 years. Natshe told *Al Fajr* he gave the Israelis detailed maps of the Hebron municipality area.

Municipality engineer Mohammed Omar Muhtaseb refused to talk to *Al Fajr* without per-

mission from the appointed mayor, Shemesh. Shemesh refused to comment unless he got a permit from the military commander in Beit El.

Sources in the city say Shemesh regards construction permits issued by the former municipality illegal.

In 1982 Kiryat Arba settlers demolished several houses in Hebron, claiming that they were unlicensed. Licences had been given by the Natshe municipality.

BRITISH DEMOGRAPHER DENIED ENTRY TO ISRAEL

British medical demography student Anne Scott was refused entry to Israel, October 2, and deported before her lawyer could intervene. An official complaint has been filed with the interior ministry. She is the third Westerner to be denied entry in the past month.

Scott, 26, was on her way to Bir Zeit to attend a conference on rural development being organised by the university in conjunction with Durham University in Britain and the University of Amsterdam. She was to deliver a paper on population. She arrived at Lydda airport at 2:40 am in a party of delegates to the conference.

According to a journalist who travelled with her, Scott was taken to one side at passport control and told there was an order from the ministry of the interior to bar her from the country. She said she was refused permission to call her lawyer, Lea Tsemel.

According to a statement issued by BZU Scott was also prevented from calling the British Consul and threatened with physical force if she did not get on the next plane. She left at 3:40 am.

Scott is a former employee of BZU. In July 1982 she was badly beaten up in Israeli military custody. She was arrested while in Ramallah military headquarters with BZU students who had gone to pick up their ID cards. Two women soldiers were eventually jailed for assaulting her

with batons. There was outcry over the incident in Britain. Then Scott was charged with visa irregularities, but the file was eventually closed.

In an official communique on the issue BZU called the refusal of the Israelis to allow Scott into the country "a violation of individual rights and the principle of academic freedom and exchange." They urged she be allowed in time to attend the conference. Academics here for the conference from Britain, Holland, and the United States sent a letter to Israeli Minister of the Interior Yusef Burg "deploring" the action of immigration officials and urging him to let Scott in. The conference is the first international academic gathering to be held in the West Bank.

Albert Aghazarian, BZU spokesman, told *Al Fajr* October 4, that the mood on campus "is one of indignation."

An Israeli interior ministry spokesman told reporters that Scott was "a frequent participant in anti-Israel protest rallies."

On September 28, US journalist Maya Shon was also refused entry at Lydda airport. Shon was one of the first people to photograph the aftermath of the Sabra and Shatila massacres, last year. She has produced a widely distributed slide show on Israel's invasion of Lebanon and the massacres.

Earlier in September, US civil rights activist Ralph Schoenman was barred from Israel.

NEVE TERTZA PROTEST

JERUSALEM — Women Against Occupation called on Jewish and Arab women throughout the country to join them in a demonstration to protest the worsening conditions of Palestinian women prisoners in Neve Tertzat jail, Ramle. The demonstration is scheduled for Friday, October 7, at 1:00 pm in front of the prison.

Hana Zohar, one of the leaders of the group formerly known as Women Against the Invasion of Lebanon, told *Al Ittihad* that the condition of the women in Neve Tertzat is unbearable. She said the women are "refusing to be treated as maids."

Palestinian political prisoners in Neve Tertzat have refused to cook for the prison guards and to work in the kitchen. In retaliation, the prison authorities made life more difficult for the women and took away from them some of their prison rights. They have been on strike now for several months.

Meanwhile, lawyer Felicia Langer said her client Ittaf Salameh informed her that a

month ago she fell ill. She believes she has dislocated her jaw. Salameh, 30, from East Jerusalem, asked to see a doctor but was ignored, reports Langer. She also asked for more help and requested that her food be brought to her room because she did not want to eat in front of the other women prisoners. This was also denied.

She eventually saw a doctor after going on a hunger strike. The medic, who did not give her any medical check-up, told her that the problem will probably go away just as suddenly as it happened.

Ittaf Salameh is still not feeling well and suffers occasional severe headaches. She had a similar problem 10 years ago and is frightened she may have cerebral problems requiring immediate medical attention, Langer said.

Salameh's 10 and 8-year-old children came to see their widowed mother at Neve Tertzat when they heard of her illness. The jail guards refused them entry. (Translation: *Al Ittihad*)

THIS WEEK'S CENSORSHIP

Following is a breakdown of censorship cuts for issue 179, October 7, 1983:

Number of original articles submitted to censors	27
Number of articles totally censored out	4
Number of articles mutilated beyond use	1
Number of articles partially censored but used	1
Number of articles passed	21

ABNA' AL-BALAD ACTIVIST TOWN-ARRESTED

Israeli military authorities imposed a town arrest order on Ibrahim Nahfawi, 30, an *Abna' al-Balad* activist in Shafa 'Amr, 30 kilometres east of Haifa, October 4.

Nahfawi was summoned to the town's police station and he was given the restriction order for six months. The order, signed by Amir Drori, the military commander of the northern district, is based on unspecified "interests of state security." Under the terms of the order, Nahfawi must stay home from dusk to dawn and not leave the 20,000 populated city during the day. He has to register at the police

station at 8:00 am, 1:00 and 6:00 pm.

Nahfawi told *Al Fajr* that the order will severely affect his livelihood and political work. He works installing aluminium window frames, mainly in the Haifa area.

Nahfawi, a prominent activist in the *Abna' al-Balad* movement, believes the recent call of the Shafa 'Amr branch for all political groups and associations in the village to unite in the forthcoming elections is the main reason for the new restriction.

For four years Nahfawi has been barred from entering

the West bank and the Golan Heights. He is the third Shafa 'Amr *Abna' al-Balad* member to be restricted. Former political prisoners Ali Samniah and Faraj Khneif were restricted for 12 months until last year.

An activist in *Abna' al-Balad* movement in the Galilee told *Al Fajr* that *Abna' al-Balad*, a progressive nationalist organisation, is the "most oppressed and harassed movement" inside the 'green line'. "The Israeli authorities aim at freezing and stopping our political activities by placing activists under town arrest to prevent them from contacting the masses," said the source.

Police officer sentenced for bribery

The Israeli district court in Jerusalem sentenced Yehoshua Shabi, former police commander of the Ramallah area, September 28, to three years in prison and fined him IS150,000 after convicting him of a number of crimes, including accepting bribes and misuse of his position.

Shabi, 55, who until his detention was serving as deputy commander of the southern West Bank region, was found guilty of taking bribes worth thousands of Israeli shekels in exchange for suspending investigation in certain cases. Israeli newspapers reported that the Israeli police officer accepted bribes in kind, including clothes, a wrist watch and many other things.

In one incident, Israeli papers reported, Shabi ordered the release of a person who was arrested while driving a car without a licence. The prosecution stated that Shabi ordered the driver's release after a local po-

liceman who frequently provided him with fruit and vegetables asked him to do so. Furthermore, papers stated that the Israeli police officer had employed local policemen under his command in personal work in his home in Petah Tikva. The court also convicted Shabi of trying to conceal evidence against him.

During the final hearing, the prosecution told the court that Shabi had invited bribery. He asserted that those who offered the "gifts" felt that if they did not do so, they might be harmed, even if they had committed no crime.

Israeli newspapers which reported on the trial described the sentence as "mild." The papers stated that the court had taken into consideration his long service on the force, where he served for more than 32 years. It also took into consideration the health of the officer, who is said to have suffered two strokes since his detention some months ago.

Nearly three months ago, the military governor of the Tulkarm area was found guilty of taking bribes. According to the charge sheet on which his conviction was based, the Israeli had his house built by a local contracting company without paying for it. He was given a prison sentence and was demoted.

Israeli journalists who cover the occupied territories said that in the past there were several other incidents in which Israeli policemen or military government officers were involved in taking bribes. This case, however, was the most serious one, they asserted.

Police in the occupied territories belong to the Israeli police force under the interior ministry. The force, however, is subordinate to the military government's permission to investigate a case and have to submit findings to them.

German woman sentenced to five years for membership

Israeli central court in Tel Aviv sentenced Sonia Leicht, 34, a German national, to five years imprisonment, September 20, on charges of membership in the PLO and passing information to the organisation.

According to the formal charge sheet, which was made public by Israeli police this week, Leicht was instructed to collect information about three individuals, two of whom are Israelis living in Germany, and to pass it to the PLO. The charge sheet

also stated that the German woman was recruited into the PLO in 1980, following a private visit to Beirut, Lebanon.

After going through several security tests, she was then taken to South Lebanon, where she received training in the use of fire arms and preparation of explosives. Leicht later returned to Germany in January, where she agreed to collect information on the two Israelis and a German woman who is married to an Israeli, apparently suspected of working for the Israeli Mossad.

Leicht, who is married to a Palestinian now being held in a German prison, was arrested in June, following her arrival in Israel. Israeli newspapers said that before her detention she crossed the border "illegally" into Lebanon and returned to Israel after a while.

Sonia Leicht is the second foreign national recently held by Israel on charges of connections with the PLO. A French national was arrested recently and accused of passing information on a Tel Aviv building.

Police besiege Mea Sharim

One hundred and twenty policemen besieged the Orthodox Mea Sharim quarter in Jerusalem in the early hours, October 4, and raided print shops and the homes of a number of residents in the area, looking for the source of anti-Zionist and anti-police posters and leaflets.

According to the Israeli press, the raid was directed by Police Commander Rahamin

Comfour and was planned for months since the latest clashes between the Orthodox community and the Jerusalem police over archaeological digs at an alleged Jewish graveyard near the Old City.

Three residents belonging to the anti-Zionist Neturei Karta organisation were taken into custody and questioned, but were released when a magistrate court

judge said there was insufficient evidence to remand them.

Police found no evidence of the literature they were looking for, one piece being a leaflet equating the Jerusalem Police Commander with Adolf Hitler.

One day earlier, 21 Neturei Karta members were arrested, questioned and released.

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FIGHTING FOR THE LAND

Palestinian working lawyers — a different category from those who have been on anti-occupation strike since 1967 — stopped work for two days in mid-September to protest the infringement on human and legal rights of the Palestinian population by the Israeli military occupation authorities. The more than 1000 military orders are the main focus of their complaint.

After practicing law for 16 years and having to deal with military orders that now circumscribe every aspect of daily life, these lawyers concluded that Israel is violating all the internationally accepted legal norms.

Any and all military orders serve the expansionist and racist policy of the Israeli government. Land in the occupied territories was the first target. This falls within the policy and ideology of Zionists who always wanted the land without people. The latest order in this category was the creation of a land registration office in Ma'ale Adumim settlement with jurisdiction over areas in Ramallah, Hebron, Bethlehem and Jericho.

Why was it issued?

Because the Israeli system was always keen on using 'legal' methods to implement its policy; Palestinians on the other hand have found ways to defend their rights. On the question of land and its ownership, Jordanian law, still accepted as the only valid code according to the Geneva Conventions, says that every land deal has to be publicised. The usual practice was to post details of any deal on a bulletin board at the land registration office. Palestinians learned to follow up these notices and in the last few years many fraudulent deals were uncovered and the land was returned to its rightful owners. Now the Israelis have created this impossible-to-reach office in order to delay any objection and thus facilitate their theft of more land.

But very soon the Palestinians will find a way to stop this theft because for them it is a matter of life and death.

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Farouq Kaddoumi addresses the UN Conference on the Question of Palestine in Geneva, Switzerland, August 30. As the General Assembly meets, PLO diplomats begin an extensive round of meetings with officials of friendly states.

EXTENDING A DIPLOMATIC HAND

by Our Special Correspondent

With the UN General Assembly meeting attracting most important world leaders, the PLO delegation, headed by Farouq Kaddoumi, head of the PLO political department, has initiated an extensive round of contacts with officials of friendly states. In an extensive effort to gain further support for the PLO and to discuss ways and means of supporting the just struggle of the Palestinian people and implementing the UN resolutions concerning their right to self-determination and to establish an independent state, Mr Kaddoumi has already started a number of meetings with heads of state and foreign ministers.

On September 28, Kaddoumi met Prime Minister of India Indira Gandhi and attended a dinner with French President Francois Mitterand, King Hassan of Morocco and a large number of foreign ministers from friendly countries. Mr Kaddoumi and Dr Ahmad Sudqi Dajani, member of the PLO Executive Committee, have also had meetings with the foreign ministers of Portugal, East Germany, India, Bangladesh, Kuwait and with the Soviet UN

delegation. Contacts are expected to continue through the General Assembly.

In speeches to the UN's preeminent forum, a number of presidents and foreign ministers gave strong support for the PLO and for the just struggle of the Palestinian people. Indira Gandhi, speaking from the heart of the non-aligned movement, expressed strong support for the PLO and for the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and national independence and strongly condemned Israeli policies as practiced in the occupied territories. She called for the UN to implement resolutions concerning the right of the Palestinian people to return to their homeland, to self-determination and to establish an independent Palestinian state.

While in the US, Kaddoumi and other delegates will meet with the local Palestinian community and organisations to encourage them to increase their efforts to present the PLO and to help the Palestinians under occupation.

CENSORSHIP ANEW IN BEIRUT

by Livia Rokach

The Gemayel regime in Beirut extended its new censorship regulations, October 2, to private radio stations. Theoretically all six are now obliged to submit the texts of all their news broadcasts and political commentaries to preventive censorship by the general security services. The print media have been censored for the past three weeks.

Local Lebanese and foreign observers in Beirut say that the double standards applied by the Phalangist "free world democracy" to newspapers is being paralleled with the electronic media. Gemayel is turning a blind eye to the pro-government transmitters while hitting hard at the Muslim majority mouthpiece.

The three stations formally touched by the censorship decree are: "The Voice of Free Lebanon," of the Phalangist-dominated rightist "Lebanese Forces" coalition; "The Voice of Lebanon," belonging to the Phalange Party; and the "Voice of Arab Lebanon," the Mourabitun (Nasserite) radio, traditionally the most listened to in West Beirut. Observers say the Mourabitun station is the real target, under the appearance of "equal treatment" of the censorship decree.

The three other private stations — that of ex-president Suleiman Franjeh's group in the north, Sa'ad Haddad's US-financed "Voice of Hope" in the occupied south and the recently established Progressive Socialist Party radio in Aley — are physically out of reach for the Gemayel censors.

The discrimination openly exercised by the censorship in regard to the media is a major point of conversation in Beirut nowadays. For

example, a statement by PLO Unified Information head Yasser Abbed Rabbo condemning US military intervention in Lebanon was suppressed by the censors when submitted by the pro-leftist *Al Safir*, but allowed in Ghassan Tueni's moderate *Al Nahar*. The same goes for a Walid Jumblatt statement that the Druze will take up their arms again if the negotiations fail, and this despite the fact that any criticism of the US as well as any reference to the civil war are strictly forbidden according to a censorship decree.

Other examples regard the censorship of international news. Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko's demand that the Americans leave Lebanon, and Saudi Emir Bandar Ben Sultan's statement that if an agreement between the parties were not realised rapidly, Lebanon would be partitioned, were suppressed throughout the Lebanese media. Pictures, for example of Shi'ite, Druze or other militiamen, are also suppressed.

Ironically, the censorship regulations are formally based on a decree issued on January 1, 1977 by the Lebanese government, then presided over by Suleiman Franjeh, on the demand of Syria — at that time concerned with consolidating its control over Lebanon in the wake of the civil war. At that time and since, however, the decree was never really applied, but was not abolished. Until a month ago, throughout the conflicts, bloody wars and emergencies, the Lebanese continued to exercise and enjoy their right to a free press unique in the Middle East. Today this right is just one more victim buried under the rubble in a Beirut oppressed by a Western supported fascist regime.

ENOUGH OF THE UN

by Dr Samir Katbeh

Reliance on another nation or organisation to meet one's national aspirations shows political immaturity. Every nation should specify its goals and then carefully plan to reach them.

The Palestinians have been accused on different occasions of depending on others to solve their problems. They have been accused of relying on the UN at times, on the Arab countries at others and of doing the minimum to help themselves. This accusation, in my opinion, is far from the bitter truth.

Even though the Palestinian problem arose before and during World War I, there was at that time no Israeli state. The Israelis were not able to rely on their own efforts to establish a homeland for themselves in Palestine. Even Britain, with its Mandate powers over Palestine and (having made) the famous promise to the Jews of a homeland in Palestine, did not dare to bear the sole responsibility for the establishment of the Jewish state. Instead, it took the Palestine question to the UN for reasons having to do with its long-term interests.

It is not intended here to discuss the political period during which the UN was established. Neither is the intention to go into the UN's declared or undeclared goals, or who is responsible for making sure that its decisions are implemented, or the politics which serve the UN or the ones that the UN serves. But I want to say that the UN is the organisation which made the decision to create Israel. That is, the state of Israel was founded by a UN decision.

I do not want to get into the reasons and politics that brought the Palestinian question before the UN. But when the UN decided to partition Palestine between the Arabs and Jews, or between the Israelis and Palestinians, or whatever they were called, I do not believe it intended to establish a homeland for one party and neglect the other. What happened was that no one bothered to put an end to the Palestinian tragedy since its birth. It therefore

continued to grow until it reached its current shape. Now Israel exists and the Arab state in Palestine does not, leaving 4.5 million Palestinians scattered all over the world.

The victims of the partition decision held the UN responsible for their tragedy and for not implementing all parts of its resolution. The UN, feeling guilty and responsible for its decision and unable to relieve the suffering of the victims, elected to grant them temporary retribution. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestinian refugees is one example.

Then, in a joint effort by all the parties in the Middle East, most of the European countries and the two superpowers, the Palestinian issue was softened and put on a course making it an issue for political discussion at UN platforms.

I write this, without the need to go into details using documents and proof, to show that the UN has responsibilities to the Palestinians which they should carry out. The UN was not able to ignore some of its responsibilities because of the following facts:

1) The British Mandate of Palestine after World War I weakened the Palestinian people and made them unable to participate in international discussions on Palestine;

2) The Palestinians were not allowed to actively participate in determining their future;

3) The Palestinian problem became an arena for political experimentation, bargaining and exploitation;

4) Most of the politicians inside and outside the UN realise the imbalance between the Arabs and Jews or between Palestinians and Israelis in this crisis;

5) Dispersing the Palestinians all over the world did not put an end to their cause.

This introduction brings out two points:

1) The UN's responsibility towards the Palestinians is an obligation and 2) when the Palestinians demand anything from the UN, they are not asking for favours.

Our experiences with the UN are many and need a moment of reflection. My personal experience was not longer than six years, but it was full of disappointments. The first disappointment was caused by the political manoeuvring and the different General Assembly and Security Council resolutions. The second disappointment was from the different UN organisations and departments. My experience was with UNRWA, the World Health Organisation (WHO), the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). All these organisations have administrators and advisers who implement specific programmes and adhere to UN decisions.

Even though I am living under occupation, watching tourists come despite occupation and martial law, I still have UN representative status which gives me the opportunity to meet a number of those 'visitors' from different UN organisations. They come under the pretext of fact-finding. Others come to study local needs. More come to find a

way to implement a decision or to see what has been implemented or not and why, etc.

At times they are objective, logical and neutral. At other times they are understanding and sympathetic or emotionally involved and prepared to help. They do not waste time claiming they are in official positions in the world organisation and have to power to do everything. All they need to do is contact the right person, tell them what is going on and things will be done. But they do not have the power to enforce or implement any decision. They do not forget to mention how they rescued the third world or how many trips they made, or their wives' position on all this...

Another more sickening disappointment was the result of a meeting with a senior official in the UN. The meeting took place at his office around mid-1983. After a little chat I said: "The UN General Assembly resolution number 33/147 regarding aid to the Palestinian people has been referred to your department. Since you were given special privileges for implementing decisions without going through normal bureaucratic procedures not alien to your organisation, what could be done to implement this one? Otherwise, why should we build false hope over something that does not exist?"

His answer was that he is very understanding and will urge the immediate enforcement of some of its articles. He suggested I prepare a list of specific needs, and said he would get the list on a specific date. I was grateful and promised to have the list ready for him on time. But he never called or came to get the list, as if nothing had happened. He ought to have apologised, and I was in a mood to accept his apologies. Or he should have had the courage to explain the whole situation.

All I need from the UN, its organisations, administrators and employees, is to tell them — enough.

on the region. However, the reality that Wright shows us in this book is that the PLO cannot be circumvented.

The US could not possibly have retained much credibility in the eyes of Palestinians. Wright argues, after the tragedy of Sabra and Shatila, for which broken American promises bore a large responsibility.

"Part of US strategy was based on the surmise that with the PLO's dispersion, radical elements within the organisation would split from it, and the PLO would dissolve, freeing Hussein to act unilaterally without Palestinian pressure," Wright says. "But no splintering occurred."

While Shultz showed concern with academic freedom, for the Palestinians the Reagan Plan did not offer freedom itself — another cause for lack of credibility. And then, although the plan called for a freeze on settlements, the inaction which followed made it "increasingly clear that the American position rested not on a sincere concern for the Palestinian plight, but upon subordination of Arab interests to those of the United States and deterrence of Soviet influence in the area."

Wright exposes the Reagan administration's apathy toward seeing any real progress on the plan — other problems, notably the 1984 budget, took priority. Wright also provides brief analyses of the Saudi, Jordanian, Syrian and Egyptian views of the Reagan Plan.

After the Palestine-Israel War: Limits to US and Israeli Policy by Khalil Nakhleh and Clifford Wright.

The massive attack against Lebanon last summer, fought with ultra-sophisticated US-made weapons, has permanently scarred the moral psyche of both the Israeli and American governments, if both were not already calloused beyond such damage. Khalil Nakhleh and Clifford Wright, fellows at the Institute of Arab Studies in Belmont, Massachusetts, have evaluated the American and Israeli policies which spawned the '82 war, what they were calculated to achieve and despite the brutal aggression could not achieve. Both Nakhleh and Wright back their arguments with careful and detailed analysis of fact.

Dr Nakhleh has written an almost prescient analysis of Israel's aims in its invasion of Lebanon and its policies since the invasion. He argues convincingly that the real reason for Israeli-imposed obstacles to negotiations was not so much to uphold any principles they felt threatened as it was to distract US attention from the implementation of the Reagan Plan, "undermining the necessary conditions for the application of the Reagan Plan."

Nakhleh shows that the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza now play an even more central role in Israeli calculations. Consequently, stepped-up

AMERICAN-ISRAELI FAILURES IN LEBANON

BOOK REVIEW by Nancy Jimison

oppression there has reflected the Israeli view that the PLO is still "alive, well and influential," in contradiction to their earlier claims following the war.

Only one of Israel's goals was realised, according to Nakhleh, "the destruction of the PLO's political and military infrastructure in Lebanon." One might be more narrow in this and limit the fall of the PLO to Beirut. Despite this, Israel "acknowledged that between mid-July and November 8, there were 261 guerrilla attacks against Israeli soldiers in the south...Palestinian/Lebanese guerrillas continued to enjoy mobility of action even in areas under the control of the Israeli military."

Another Israeli goal, the imposition of normalised relations with the Lebanese, largely for the sake of an expanded Israeli market, was met with resentment even among their Phalange allies. The overkill approach backfired, says Nakhleh.

One more stated objective, the removal of foreign forces from Lebanon, showed itself in contradiction to the fact that with the concessions Israel won from Lebanon, the Syrians could be expected to fight for the same gains.

Clifford Wright takes a hard look

at American policy, specifically the Reagan Plan, and illustrates how "from the outset, the plan carried the ingredients for its own demise." He identifies six reasons for its downfall: "the lack of interest, seriousness and commitment on the part of the Reagan administration; the failure to build any credibility among either Palestinians or Israelis; the comprehensiveness of the plan; the nature of the strategic relationship between the US and Israel; the lack of American understanding of the cause and results of Palestinian nationalism; and the absence of any strategic necessity for the success of the plan."

Wright's analysis is well thought out and organised. He first looks at the background to the plan in previous US policy, namely the Camp David pledges. In this section, however, American intent in backing the invasion could have been evaluated further. Wright says, "how formal the US-Israeli concurrence was on the nature and future of the PLO is not clear."

Wright asserted that Reagan perceived a new "reality" in the Middle East, based mainly on the *realpolitik* of the PLO's military defeat, which would allow the US to impose its own peace

Until January 1, 1982, there was no democratically-elected representative body for the Palestinian journalists in the occupied territories to defend their interests and work on their behalf.

The Arab Journalists Association administrative committee, which was elected by more than 80 journalists on January 1 last year, is the realisation of a long-awaited dream. In the past, if a journalist was arrested by the Israeli authorities or summarily fired by the newspaper owner, there was no recourse to anyone for support.

Until 1978, most of the writing in Palestinian newspapers was done on a voluntary basis. Most of the contributors were either poets, writers or teachers who worked at the same time in other institutions where they were members of their respective unions.

Mohammed Batrawi, a Palestinian writer, worked as editor of *Arabic Al Fajr* between 1974-75 on a volunteer basis and at the same time was an employee in the Jerusalem Electric Company. According to Batrawi, those who wrote for Palestinian national papers did so "to express themselves under occupation and perform a national duty." Some of them intended also to increase their incomes. "But this was not the general basis," he said.

Another reason behind the long absence of a journalists union was the small number of people in the job. "There were no more than a few dozen writers," Batrawi said.

According to Batrawi and other newspaper writers, they were subjected to harassment and persecution by the Israeli authorities. Those who worked in

ARAB JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION

In the interest of Palestinian journalists and journalism

by Awad Abdel Fattah

governmental institutions were forced to write under false names. Others, such as Ali Khatib, the editor of *Al Shaab*, were expelled in the early 1970s.

In 1978 a handful of journalists sponsored a journalistic union under the name of the Arab Journalists Association after they received a permit from the Israeli authorities. Some of the journalists worked on *Al Anba'* — the Arabic language organ of the Israeli government — and others on *Al Quds*, considered pro-Jordanian by many observers. The union was set up without democratic elections and without consultations with the journalists who worked on nationalistic papers. "This is why this association did not enjoy support and did not have credibility within the general journalistic body," explained one veteran journalist. He added that this association did not reflect the true aspirations and the general national attitudes of the journalists in the occupied territories.

A year later the journalists who had different ideological and practical positions, which constituted the majority, decided to join this association. "So that they could direct the union towards the real interests of the journalists," said Abd al-Latif Ghith, *Al Fajr* sports editor. He explained that the union was gradually taken over by the national movement from the "traditional elements." Then a transitional administrative board was

formed, which paved the way for the elections in 1982 for the current administrative board.

Since the establishment of the new association, a number of advances have been made for local journalists. A press house was opened, "where journalists can meet as professionals and hold activities," said Radwan Abu Ayyash, a member on the nine-man administrative board of the association. He remarked that in the past journalists could only meet in their homes or at the newspapers.

The administrative board has issued seven booklets so far on problems of writing and standards of journalism. "This way we can raise the professional level of the journalists," said Akram Haniyeh, chairman of the administrative board. The AJA also issued a booklet detailing Israeli practices and harassment against Palestinian press institutions and journalists. According to Haniyeh, the booklet was sent abroad to progressive press institutions to "familiarise them to the conditions under which we live and work." The booklet, carrying the name *Palestinian Journalists*, outlined the kinds of harassment, such as closing newspapers, banning circulation, and arresting journalists and restricting them to towns and villages.

In the context of the professional sphere, the association also sponsored a

course on journalism in cooperation with Bir Zeit University in May 1983, and 30 journalists took part in it.

Journalists who have been arrested in the last two years have also enjoyed care, as well as their families, by the association. Lawyers have been hired for them and fines imposed on them were paid by the association.

Ten journalists have been helped with legal problems. The latest was Talal Abu Afifeh, the Arabic language *Al Fajr* reporter jailed for four months this year and fined IS5000.

Big Projects

The association has focused attention on the social conditions of the journalists. After months of negotiations about six months ago, journalists and their families were registered in a health insurance programme. This project, which cost the association JD5000, has been viewed by the journalists as a major contribution to its improvement. "Before the implementation of the health insurance project," said one journalist, "I used to pay a considerable part of my low salary in medical treatment for my children."

Salaries of the Palestinian journalists are incredibly low, a cause for continued personal worry and frustration. Traditionally, wage negotiations have been made either on an individual basis or at best within one branch of a paper. The association has made no progress on the across-the-board raise journalists are demanding. But work on a comprehensive wage scale is underway. "We have prepared," said Radwan, "a stable wage scale to take the issue away from the whims of the owners of the institutions."

continued on page 15

by Daoud Kuttab

National feeling was sky-high in the Golan Heights, September 24, in the aftermath of massive demonstrations near the border fence in the village of Majdal Shams.

The national outburst which took place one week after the death of Golan leader Kamal Kanj Abu Saleh was reminiscent of the spring of 1982, when the local population resisted massive Israeli attempts to force the Israeli-issued ID cards on the Syrian Golanis.

The people of the Golan Heights — women, men and children — came to pay their final respects to the courageous little man who, despite failing health, led the resistance against Israeli plans to annex the occupied Golan and was imprisoned for it in 1982.

Strike Aftermath

Almost every family in the Golan experienced financial loss during last year's five-month protest strike. In addition there was a depletion of basic food supplies because of the tight siege placed on the four Druze villages by the Israeli army for over one month. The popular consensus in July 1982 was to accept the Israeli compromise formula put forth by the Druze qadi (judge) from the Galilee, which stated that the Israeli government will not interfere with the residents' basic civil, water and land rights and will not impose army service on youths. But the formula regarding the acceptance of Israeli ID cards failed because the Israeli government did not honour its promises to find an alternative solution for the identityless residents. (The authorities had taken away the military-issued cards and attempted to force Israeli interior ministry ID cards on the residents, but the Golan population literally threw the cards in the streets).

Forced by the lack of action of the Israeli government, most Golan residents have unwillingly taken ID cards, primarily in order to travel to their work.

Citizenship Rejected

Most residents compare their situation to East Jerusalem, which, like the Golan, was annexed by Israel against the will of its residents. The Golanis point out that Palestinians of East Jerusalem have not become Israeli citizens and are not allowed to vote in the Israeli Knesset elections unless the residents make a separate application requesting citizenship. Only 300 of Jerusalem's 120,000 residents have applied for and accepted it to date.

Golan Druze religious leader Sheikh Salman Kanj Abu Saleh explained to *Al Fajr* that although the religious and social boycott for individuals carrying Israeli ID cards has been lifted, "the ban on anyone applying for Israeli citizenship will be forcefully carried out in accordance with the national covenant signed by Golan leaders in the aftermath of the Israeli Knesset ruling."

The schools of the Golan Heights continue to suffer lack of classroom space, lack of professionally trained teachers and tight control on higher education opportunities for high school graduates. Many qualified teachers and headmasters were fired in the past few years because of their national stand. A Nazareth court which heard the case of six teachers arbitrarily fired has not ruled on it, although deliberations ended last September. Locals believe that the Israeli Shin Bet (intelligence) is preventing a decision that will be in their favour.

Higher education opportunities are also restricted. Students are forbidden

Golanis honour Kanj Nationalism flares again



The town of Majdal Shams, where demonstrations took place last week to honour the late Sheikh Kamal Kanj. "National feeling was sky-high."

from continuing their education in Syria or any other Arab countries, forcing them to study irrelevant subjects in Israeli universities. One teacher from the village of Ain Kinya explains: "When our students were allowed to go to Syria, over 60 percent of the students were taking courses in medicine, dentistry and engineering, but now we do not have one student from the Golan taking such courses in the Israeli universities."

Marketing Apples

Not only are students banned from travel to the homeland of Syria, but so are visitors. Family reunions are impossible and the agricultural export market has been closed to residents. Farmers in the Golan complain that they are under the direct mercy of the giant Israeli wholesalers. Farmers say that a kilo of their apples, which are known throughout the Middle East, sold

for about US\$1 three years ago but brought one-third that amount this year. Apple growers say that the closing of an alternative market gives the Israeli purchasers an opportunity to control the prices of apples bought from the Golan. Local farmers attempted to counter the Israeli producers by building two large walk-in freezers to store apples but this has not produced a palpable difference. Farmers say that taxes imposed on farmers using the freezers reduces any profit.

Golan residents are not obliged to pay Israeli income tax and value added tax but since last summer they have been forced to pay the 'Peace for Galilee' war taxes. Golanis say that they are forced to pay an additional 17 percent of their assessments in order to fund the war against the Lebanese people, many of whom are co-religionists and even family.

International law and the Geneva Conventions prohibit occupying powers from changing the laws existing prior to occupation. They also limit whatever new laws the occupying authority wants to implement to those that deal with security and the welfare of the occupied people.

The occupying country has no right to confiscate land, change the area's geographic and demographic character or settle others on it. In general, the occupying authority should make no law or commit any action that would infringe on the rights of the people of the occupied territory. (International conventions regard) any occupation as temporary linked to certain political conditions which should end once they are eliminated.

The occupying authorities (here have) totally ignored these international laws and acted in an exactly opposite manner by issuing military orders that became law, cancelling existing ones or changing or adding to them.

The occupying authority used military orders to rob the local courts of their powers, to isolate the local population intellectually and economically, to gain control of Arab land, and to paralyse courts and lawyers.

This statement includes a summary of these military orders. This will clearly show the continuing violations which we expect to continue.

Military Orders Dealing with Lands

1) Military Order 25 (including amendments):

This order bars any individual or institution from exchanging property without special permission of the authority in charge represented by the director of Land Registration Affairs. This order was amended by MO 1030, which gave the authority the right to issue the requested permission when asked by all parties involved in the deal, some of them, or anyone concerned (the terms concerned are very flexible) and even without submitting an application for the requested permission.

The term "deal" includes in this matter more than just the buying and selling of land. It includes any exchange, monetary or otherwise, even an agreement to establish a deal. This will result in close scrutiny of all real estate exchanges among the local population.

2) Military Order 219:

The occupation authority used this military order to cancel all procedures already executed according to the (Jordanian) law of Settlement of Land and Water Rights and those still pending at the time of occupation. This reversed the land situation to the pre-registration status quo. This stopped land registration procedures. Owners were forced to re-register lands, thus exposing them to the major restrictions and hardships of MO 25. Many land owners were also absent (at the time of occupation) and were unable to return. This, in addition to the long and complicated procedures, meant many were not able to prove their land ownership and show deeds.

3) Military Order 58 (and amendments):

This order considers real estate and related property as unclaimed if the owners were not present in the occupied area before, at the time of or after the time of the occupation.



An official was appointed to be responsible for these matters. This official was given the privilege to transact properties. Transactions are considered legal even if it was proven later that that property was not unclaimed.

Here we ask the following question: How could any transaction be considered legal or not, particularly if we know that the regular local courts are not allowed to rule on such matters? (They are) referred to in an Israeli Military Objections committee about which we shall talk later.

4) Military Order 448 (and amendments):

This order was issued to amend the Jordanian law Number 6, issued in 1964. Articles 6 and 7 of the Jordanian by-laws talk about two committees to examine land registration applications and any objections to these applications.

These two committees were created according to constitutional by-laws and given exceptional status. The regular courts remained the final authority to deliberate registration. Once a case comes before the courts, the two committees give up their authority to the courts.

In other words, the regular courts are authorised to deliberate land and real estate disputes. The committees are exceptional and deal only with organisational and administrative problems. They have no right to deliberate and decide property ownership.

This point was made clear in Article 8 of the Jordanian by-laws. But MO 448 amended articles 6 and 7 and allowed a preliminary committee to be established, made up of a magistrate as chairman with the director of the Property and Income Tax Department and a representative of the director of the Land Department as members.

The Appeals Committee was made up of an appeals judge as chairman, with the attorney-general or his deputy and a representative of the Land Department as members.

This order required an application for registration of real estate considered government-owned or unclaimed be submitted to the officer in charge of absentee property. This officer was given the right to appear in front of the Appeals Committee. A military committee can also be formed with equal power to the Appeals Committee to which the lower courts' decisions can be appealed.

This order was also amended by MO 1034, which removed the above and established a preliminary committee chaired by the district governor under

whose jurisdiction the property is submitted for registration. The chairman can appoint someone else to represent him, or that committee can be chaired by someone appointed by the head of the 'civil administration'.

This order forced the dismissal of the Arab lower court justices from chairing the preliminary committee. It also disbanded the Appeals Committee and kept the military committee made up of Israeli military judges. The order also cancelled Article 8 of the Jordanian law which gave the right of deliberation and decision-making to the regular courts. The order gave full and final authority to the committee.

Added to this was MO 1060, which gave the newly-structured preliminary registration committee full power of MO 1034 with regard to any property presented for registration. It was given the power to decide any preliminary procedures, any matter dealing with land registration and even to prohibit the regular courts from deliberating any disputes or any matters having to do with land. The courts were obliged under this order to refer all such cases to the formerly-mentioned preliminary committee overturning, therefore, known and practiced laws.

This order is in total variance with the constitution because the regular courts are the ones authorised to decide all disputes according to Article 102 of the Jordanian constitution. These laws cannot be changed by any authority unless amended by another constitutional law.

Article 101 of the constitution considered all courts open to all and protected from outside interference. Even though article 100 specifies the role of the courts, it does not mean to take this role away from them for the following reasons:

a) The constitutional order specifying the role of the courts allows the authorised individual to carry on this duty according to the constitution. This authority is limited to deciding the function of the courts and their level, not to rid them of their authority.

b) Even though laws can be amended, the right to make judicial decisions was not the result of any law.

c) So that any amendment can be considered as constitutional, it should not violate the constitution which talks about separation of powers.

d) The judicial branch is independent according to the constitution and is not tied with the executive or legislative branches. A judge does not

receive his authority from any person or party.

For the aforementioned reasons and according to the principle of separation of powers, if the legislative branch (if we accept its existence) wrote an unconstitutional law, it cannot force the legislative branch to apply it. This would be considered an imposition of the legislative branch on the judiciary.

Therefore, whenever a new law is written by a legislative branch which goes against the principles of the constitution, even if it did not disagree with any specific statement in it, this legislation is (a priori) illegal. The regular courts are required to put such an order aside and disregard it after it is proven unconstitutional.

From what has been said, it is very clear that the purpose for all the MOs presented is to give total control of all West Bank land and make their confiscation easier. Through the different restrictions made specifically for this purpose, the legitimate owners of the lands were deprived of their rights. The orders were also used to facilitate illegal real estate transfers through Arab and Israeli individuals.

STATEMENT BY THE ARAB LAWYERS COMMITTEE

Military Orders: Rearing the ugly head Of apartheid

Another purpose for these orders is to prevent the courts from deliberating land dispute cases. The recent establishment of a land registration office in Ma'ale Adumim (al-Khan al-Ahmar) settlement, whose employees are all Israelis, with jurisdiction over areas in Ramallah, Hebron, Bethlehem and Jericho, is an obvious sign of Israel's future intentions.

Depriving the Courts of their Functions

In addition to what we have already said, we offer here more of these military orders dealing with the same issues:

Military Order 412:

This order transferred the powers of the High Court to the Appeals Court and gradually did away with any other powers left for the High Court as more MOs were issued. These orders established a military board, known as the Objections Committee, to consider any objection to administrative decisions made by officials in the military government, thus taking this privilege away from the High Court.

Here are some examples. Any decision made by the military officials regarding an individual's forced retirement or civil service regulation is now dealt with not by a court but by the Military Objections Committee. Decisions dealing with disputes between individuals and the occupation authority, whether administrative or not, and decisions on customs, tariff and taxes, are dealt with in the same forum. The special courts for tax cases were abol-

ished. Decisions dealing with registering companies and real estate and decisions on highway and transportation as well as many others were similarly extra-legalised.

Orders also gave equal powers to the regular and military courts. Officials were given the power to refer any case to any court they feel fit. All cases in which one of the parties concerned is Israeli are usually referred to a military court because of alleged bias in Arab courts.

Military court decisions are usually harsher than civil courts. This is in addition to the fact that military court decisions cannot be appealed because of the absence of a military appeals court. This difference in ruling between the regular and military courts for the same cases leads to discrimination and injustice.

Some of the cases that come before the military courts include traffic violations, drugs offences and homicide.

The objections committees are made up of Israelis selected and appointed by the director-general or the head of the 'civil administration'. The decisions

authorities the right to discontinue or dismiss any case if they believe it is in the public interest. This order interferes with the freedom of the judicial system. It was originally understood that this order would only apply to criminal cases, but it was expanded to include constitutional-type issues as well. Some cases were closed or dismissed without explanation. This order is usually used in cases where the cases involved are not fully understood or to serve the authority and individuals friendly to the authority.

Israeli Lawyers

On October 23, 1967, MO 145 was issued, giving Israeli lawyers the right to present cases before courts in the occupied lands. The duration of the order was six months. This order was amended by MO 248, which extended its duration. These orders were issued, it was said, to accelerate the works of the courts, to serve the public and to allow them to hire lawyers to handle their legal affairs.

Since then this pretext has disappeared. There are 170 lawyers in the occupied territories serving the local population; therefore it is necessary now to end the competition, especially as Israeli lawyers are not well versed in Jordanian law and are not trained to brief West Bank courts. The absence of a bar association prevented action being taken against this order. The authorities took advantage of this and kept the order active.

Controlling Planting Trees and Marketing Agricultural Products

The authorities issued MOs restricting agricultural production and animal marketing. They banned anyone from taking goods out of their local areas without a permit. Animals were not allowed into Israel, or even East Jerusalem, without a permit.

MO 1015 banned the planting of trees without prior written permission. This ban was restricted to plums and grapes. It also ordered everyone who owns an orchard of 20 trees (or more) to inform the authorities. The order also allowed the authorities to charge a fee for the permit to plant trees.

In addition to all this, the order

Military Order 1015 banned any individual in the Jericho area from growing eggplants and tomatoes without written permission. Other MOs ban the bringing of animals into Israel, or even East Jerusalem, without a permit.



banned any individual in the Jericho area from growing eggplant and tomatoes without written permission.

The authorities claim this order is for the benefit of the people and to conserve water. We believe otherwise. This order was issued to restrict agriculture in the West Bank and to give (Israel) total control of water resources. The water will then be directed to Jewish settlements which compete with the Arab farmers, forcing them to become labourers.

Farmers are also restricted in the amount of water they use from natural springs to irrigate their lands. Anyone who violates these orders can be tried in a military court and fined the equivalent of a year's income. This is an obvious and blatant violation of individual rights, not protection of them as the authorities claim.

Banned Printed Material

The authorities issued military orders banning the import, publication, printing or possession of any printed material which they deem seditious or unfriendly. This includes more than 1200 books to date. The majority of these banned books are mainly research works, religious books and literature which is sold in Israel and can be found in libraries in Jerusalem. This ban is intended to restrict the education, and ability to think, of West Bank residents.

As a result of all that has been said, the Arab Lawyers Committee issued a statement, January 25, 1983, and gave a copy of it to the officer in charge of legal affairs in a meeting called by the latter. The statement included the lawyers' demands. The official promised to study these demands and respond.

In his written response to this statement, he said he had referred the statement, with a report by him, to the head of the 'civil administration' on February 2, 1983. The statement and his report were returned on February 15 without having been considered.

The lawyers called for a meeting with the Justice Affairs official in regard to this matter. A number of letters were sent to him, the most recent were dated

August 17, 18 and 23. There was no response to any of these letters. As a result, the Lawyers Committee called for a warning strike on September 12 and 13, 1983 and for a sit-in on those two days in the court house in Ramallah. The lawyers' demands were as follows:

1) The rescinding of MO 1060 and others, particularly 25, 58, 219, 448, and 1034 and the cancellation of the announcement by the head of the 'civil administration' that the office for land registration be opened in Ma'ale Adumim settlement.

2) The rescinding of all military orders which rob the courts of their powers and the abolition of the Objections Committee and adherence to Jordanian law which was still used in 1967.

3) The rescinding of all military orders which raise court costs.

4) The rescinding of all military orders which raise fines.

5) The rescinding of Military Order 412 regarding the High Court and that this court be re-established in its former structure as was decreed.

6) The rescinding of Military Order 154 and all regulations in this regard.

7) The rescinding of Military Order 841 dealing with the cancellation and dismissal of cases.

8) The rescinding of Military Order 145 and 248 and the banning of Israeli lawyers from West Bank courts.

9) The rescinding of Military Orders 47 and 1015 regarding restricting tree and vegetable plantations and the marketing of agricultural products.

10) That the banning order of many books and the distribution of newspapers and magazines in the West Bank be reconsidered.

11) That all restrictions on universities, institutions and colleges be cancelled and there be no interference in academic affairs.

12) That all restrictions on the refugee camps in the West Bank be cancelled.

13) Work to improve the judicial system, giving it freedom of action and an improvement in conditions of the justice system and court employees. We demand the appointment of an independent court inspector who should not be a judge.

14) We demand that certain procedures be taken to guarantee cooperation of the police with the courts regarding court decisions.

15) We demand that special instructions be given to the concerned parties to make the lawyers' jobs easier while performing their duties. Also to consider their requests quickly and not to neglect them and discriminate against them as is the case now.

16) We demand that registration of new lawyers be made easier, to help them get their practicing licence and give them good salaries to help them perform better.

17) We demand that the authorities agree to accept the Arab Lawyers Committee as representative of lawyers working in the West Bank and to use its structure as the official one.

The Arab Lawyers Committee
September 12, 1983

Speech by Felicia Langer, advocate, Vice President of the League for Human and Civil Rights, Israel, at the International Conference on the Question of Palestine, Geneva, Switzerland, 29 August-7 September 1983. Excerpts:

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The United Nations International Conference on the Question of Palestine is convening 16 years after Israel invaded and occupied Arab lands, among them the West Bank of Jordan and the Gaza Strip, and a year after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, which claimed thousands of innocent Palestinian and Lebanese victims, tremendous destruction in Lebanon and an armed occupation of another Arab state.

During all these years, Israel is flagrantly and constantly violating the international law, not abiding by the UN Charter, acting in defiance of all international norms as accepted by the family of nations, arrogantly neglecting various UN resolutions and annexing Arab Jerusalem and the Syrian Golan Heights by brute force.

During the years of the occupation the Israeli authorities have done their best in order to suppress and humiliate the Palestinians in the occupied territories, to dispossess them, to break and crush their national identity and aspirations.

On the hills and in the valleys of Lebanon and its refugee camps the Israeli establishment is continuing its relentless and unholy war of annihilation of Palestinian political and human rights, begun many years ago in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, enjoying the full support and blessings of the United States of America as its patron and accomplice.

The policy of deportation, torture of detainees, mass arrests, collective punishments, arbitrary killing of civilians, among them children, and general humiliation and degradation of Palestinians in their daily life is executed by the Israeli authorities in the occupied territories during all these years. The right of privacy of family and home and the right to reunification of the family are not respected in the occupied territories; the rights to opinion, expression, association and peaceful assembly were similarly denied. Israeli restrictions on freedom of the Palestinian press printed in Jerusalem are notorious.

The Palestinian trade unionists have been frequently imprisoned, tortured and forbidden to continue their trade union activities. Even the right to freedom of movement within the occupied territories is subject to the arbitrary will of the occupation authorities. Hundreds were subjected to an administrative order, confining them to their houses, or their towns or villages. The lives of whole communities are frequently affected by prolonged curfews, which have become a usual phenomenon; the Israeli armed settlers are frequently attacking the unarmed Palestinians. The victims are put under curfew, as happened recently in Hebron, while the attackers, actually encouraged and supported by the government, which supplies them their arms, remained unpunished.

The colonisation of the occupied territories, in defiance of the Fourth Geneva Convention, is gaining new momentum, leading to a *de facto* annexation of the Palestinian lands to Israel. According to Dr Meron Benvenisti (former deputy mayor of Jerusalem) in his interview to *The Jerusalem Post* September 10, 1982, under the title "De Facto Dual Society," more than half of 5.8 million dunums of West

FELICIA LANGER'S ADDRESS TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE

"ISRAEL FLAGRANTLY VIOLATES INTERNATIONAL LAW"



Bank land (outside Jerusalem) is now under Israeli control.

Israel took over the total underground water resources of the occupied territories and is totally controlling ground water sources, suspending permits for digging new water wells and controlling the quantity of water of each well; the result of such a policy is that a large sector of the population is compelled to seek work in Israel as unskilled labourers, with the result that the West Bank has become dependent on Israel even for agricultural products.

The evil practices of the Israeli occupiers are familiar to me due to my work as a lawyer, representing thousands of Palestinians in the occupied territories through all these years.

Deportation

Deportation is strictly and absolutely forbidden by the Fourth Geneva Convention (Article 49) and the Universal Declaration (Article 9). Israel has, nevertheless, maintained an open policy of deportation, which has been clearly aimed at depriving the Palestinian population of intelligent and active leadership. Thousands were deported during all these years; the mayors of Hebron and Halhoul, Fahd Qawasmeh, Mohammed Milhem and Sheikh Rajab Tamimi are the most recent victims of this policy, which is strongly condemned by the family of nations and by many peace-loving Israelis.

Maltreatment and Torture

Such practices are prohibited under customary international law, as codified in numerous international documents, including the Universal Declaration (Article 5), the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Fourth Geneva Convention. Nevertheless, the use of torture is a common practice by the Israeli investigators. I have seen with my own eyes many victims with torture marks on their bodies.

The last victim of torture whom I have seen and whose torturer was revealed and hopefully will be put on trial was Walid al-Arda, a young teacher from Jenin. He was tortured in order to extract from him a confession that he had inspired and organised "poisoning hysteria" in Arrabeh and Jenin, this spring, which he flatly denied.

Collective Punishment

Collective punishment has become a trademark of the Israeli occupation although it is strictly forbidden by the Hague and Geneva Conventions. In the course of these actions, almost 20,000 homes have been demolished, while thousands of women and children have

remained roofless. The other instances of collective punishment are those imposed on whole cities. In the West Bank, curfews lasting from several hours to several weeks affected at least 19 towns, villages and refugee camps.

The refugee camps at Dheisheh, Am'ari and Balata suffered severely from prolonged curfews, during which the authorities were raiding and searching houses and confiscating books, magazines and cassette tapes with national songs. The soldiers were also gathering the men of the camps (from 14-90) to make them stand in the streets during cold nights. Round-ups of Arabs, usually of men and boys, occurred frequently during 1982, usually following an incident of stone-throwing at Israeli military vehicles.

The Palestinian Prisoners

The prisons are overcrowded and cells are dark, sometimes without any fresh air. The prisoners receive insufficient food, suffer from lack of movement and have poor clothing. Medical care is far from satisfactory; because of malnutrition, lack of sun and fresh air and poor conditions of hygiene many prisoners suffer from eye diseases, rheumatism, anemia, hemorrhoids, weight loss, tooth and gum diseases, ulcers, weakness and nervous disorders. Palestinian prisoners are often punished arbitrarily for singing national songs or even speaking loudly or expressing opinions against the hard prison conditions, by confinement in a narrow solitary cell, by cancelling family visits, walks and many times by beatings and other physical abuses. The prisoners protested against such practices in the prisons of Beer Sheva, Nablus, Nafha and Jenin (by strikes) and now in the women's prison, Neve Tertzah.

The greatest shame is the Ansar concentration camp in South Lebanon, in which thousands of Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners are held in subhuman conditions without any recognised status.

Cultural Attacks

The occupation authorities decided also to wage a cultural struggle against the Palestinians. Hundreds of books, among them classics, are forbidden to be possessed or read in the West Bank and Gaza.

Additionally, the universities, especially Bir Zeit and Najah, have frequently been a target of army attacks and harassments.

Nowadays the practice of free shooting at demonstrators or just "sus-

pects" is continuing and there are newly wounded and dead killed by the settlers and soldiers; the mayor of Hebron was fired and the municipality dissolved, while the recent murderous attack on the Hebron University, which claimed three victims and tens of wounded, constitutes a new peak of the crimes of the occupiers.

There is no rule of law protecting the Palestinians' human rights in the occupied territories, and therefore they are compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression to lead a battle of survival on their lands. The oppressors themselves are responsible for this rebellion and its tragic results because of their stubborn denial of any rights to the Palestinian people, a people whose third generation is growing up in refugee camps, a people who will not surrender. I am now defending the second generation of Palestinians, a fact which is symbolic both for their heroism and continuous suffering.

Thousands are demonstrating in Israel within the ranks of the Peace Now movement and other movements against the atrocities in the occupied territories. Israeli soldiers and officers are testifying about the violations of human rights and warning against it. University professors, students and others are appealing to Israeli public opinion to stop the fascist practices in the occupied territories, declaring that the silent majority is an accomplice to these acts. More than once the poor have demonstrated under the slogan "money for the slums and not for the settlements," on which the government is wasting billions of dollars, eagerly supplied by the US, tempting the Israeli population to settle in the occupied territories by offering them astonishingly cheap "cottages" and villas there, advertising them without even mentioning that they are placed in the occupied territories.

Thousands of Israelis understand now, after the aggression in Lebanon, that Israeli policy is leading to a catastrophe and that there will be no peace unless the Palestinian people are not granted their legitimate rights to establish a sovereign state in the territories occupied by Israel in 1967, alongside Israel; those are the real patriots and the best sons of our country, preferring prison cells instead of oppressing the Palestinians.

The Palestinian people under occupation cannot enjoy their fundamental rights so long as they are denied the right of self-determination, which became a guiding and a general principle of international law and is contained in the UN Charter.

The right to self-determination of the Palestinian people includes the principle that the future of the Palestinian people can only be decided with their full participation in all efforts through their sole representative, the Palestine Liberation Organisation; the right to self-determination includes the right of the Palestinian people in exile to return to their homeland or to receive indemnities, according to their own choice, in conformity with UN Resolution 194 (III) of 1948, which is binding upon Israel as a member state of the United Nations.

Massacres, murders and enforced homelessness, aimed against the Palestinian people in Lebanon, and the ordeal of the 16 years of the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza show clearly that there can be no security and protection for the Palestinians except by themselves alone, on their soil, exercising their legitimate right of independence, for which they have been struggling relentlessly and heroically for years.

by Zakeria Tamer

The Laughable and the Lamentable

Perhaps his real name was Ayoub and then he changed it. Ayoub is not a tree, or a star, or a woman singer whose voice depends on her body to disperse and dissipate people.

Ayoub is an Arab who walks on his feet, created from the earth, and from the earth he eats and is eaten; to the soil he will finally return. He is not different from patriotic citizens except in his extraordinary patience and his eagerness not to profit from the world's delights. He does this to show faithfulness to the international traditions to which, once, he was born.

It is commonplace to say that Ayoub is a human being — made of flesh, blood and government communiques. He has two eyes, two ears, a nose, one mouth and two hands. He eats, sleeps, works, starves and yawns. But he is famous for his belief that most official and semi-official Arab newspapers and magazines are only advertising sheets for their governments. Ayoub is also known for his distrust of Arab world journalism. It is not known as a "profession of troubles." Ayoub claims absolutely that it is a profession of tourism between the Arab world's embassies and headquarters. However, this grave error on Ayoub's part does not stop us from recognising that he is an ideal and good citizen. Evidence of this is that he turned his bedrooms into places for enthusiastic, roaring demonstrations which are considered anti-imperialist, anti-reactionary and progressive.

Once a French woman called Bridget Bardot slipped quietly through his bedroom. He sternly threw her out and said in disgust and denial: "What is the use of beauty without a clear political awareness, without relation to national thought and dialectical materialism?"

When Ayoub was asked one day about the role of hands in a person's life, he immediately gave the arrogant reply: "The hands have no role but to applaud acts of legal guardians."

Since Ayoub is a man whose veins are full of warm blood, it is natural that he laughs. But he laughs only on the following anniversaries:

He laughs when food prices rise because then he will lose his ugly fat which makes him ill;

He laughs as he listens to most Arab presidents' speeches, which are full of nice, well-chosen and impressive words, but have no relation to their behaviour and actions — artificial roses and their speeches are alike;

Ayoub laughs when he learns of a citizen from a friendly Arab country called Angola who finds a house to rent without being obliged to creep submissively from birth to death;

Ayoub laughs when the well-respected talk of the spread of freedom through the Arab world reaches his ears;

Ayoub laughs when he sees paid murderers get their laurels as responsible for the modern and contemporary civilisation;



Ayoub laughs more sadly than a burned town as he reads the decisions of Arab conferences which mobilise efforts to make a so-called better life for Arab nationalists;

Ayoub laughs until he cries as he follows news of efforts to maintain Arab solidarity;

Ayoub laughs strangely when Arab countries convene their annual session, but he refuses to say why he is sad.

Since the man who laughs must sometimes lament, therefore Ayoub laments:

Ayoub laments when he sees a frog distinguished as a chicken walking superciliously as if it had won hundreds of battles, make strong and effective statements to the international news agencies and demand the Nobel Prize for the talented technicians of war;



Ayoub laments as he watches historical TV series because they mercilessly kill the history of his grandfathers in the name of preservation of the environment, the great past and heritage. However, he does not show his dignity and courage to execute fast and severe revenge.

Ayoub laments because he is still alive and he has not let a sharpshooter's bullet hit his brow or heart.

Since Ayoub has a mouth and teeth, he eats, and this evidence refutes all the rumours that attempt to slander the reputation of the Arab economy. He who eats is sometimes filled and sometimes starved. Ayoub does not feel sick with overeating until he listens to Arab TV broadcasts of political commentary. His stomach is then full, and his head is turned into an empty sphere with a spacious horizon through which no cloud nor bird passes.

One day Ayoub lost his patience and got fed up with his name, poverty, submissiveness and his day-and-night race to get his daily bread, and he took a dangerous decision.

His family members are numerous for unknown reasons. He took refuge with his family, who agreed to meet his call for help. He then achieved his ambition and became a strong, effective, high-ranking and wealthy governor.

Because Ayoub's past life is full of poverty, submissiveness, humiliation and hunger, and because he believed in equality, he issued new laws nationalising hunger, humiliation and poverty.

Therefore equality prevailed in Ayoub's republic, and his republic's banners were hoisted on a homeland made of dust and dolls. Ayoub continued his struggle for his people and sent squadrons of aircraft to Paris, London and Rome to bring the latest fashions. It is shameful for a governor to receive a foreign diplomat not wearing the latest styles suited to the spirit of the age.



When the philosophers and the contemporary historians saw that Ayoub was anxious and feared the future, they hastened to affirm that his republic and its policy would remain forever. And they are not liars... (Translation: Al Shaab, September 25, 1983).

by Abu Shamaqmaq

The return is commendable

"The absentee has his own reasons," runs a popular proverb which shows people's general openness and good intention. Perhaps the person who is not here was hit by a car or an aircraft fell on him or he died of an illness. "The absentee has his own excuse," and he will return. Even Salaka, the mother of Saliq*, did not blame her son when he was absent for a long time and did not return. She said, excusing her son:

"Perhaps he disappeared to escape destruction but perished. Oh be false poetry; what galling thing is behind your absence? Dangers threaten the young man wherever he goes."

Our Palestinian refugee brothers disappeared "to escape destruction" and then faced something worse than destruction. But they have not perished and they will never perish, neither by death nor exhaustion. Whoever is exhausted will perish.

He who has learned from his deadly experience that there is no alternative homeland will not suffer from exhaustion.

What is my excuse for my own absence?

I have many, the one being that I spent time in reading a new book written by a high-ranking leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, Mahmoud Abbas, or "Abu Mazen". The book is entitled *Between Exaggeration and Understatement*. He dedicated his book to us. In his introduction he said:

"To those who have not severed their relations with the soil of the homeland; To those lofty trees whose roots go deeply in the land;

To those militant people who struggle for the honour of the homeland and the dignity of man;

To all these I dedicate my words and my book."

About us, Abu Mazen said: "We forgot them, left them behind 30 years ago... why not? They got an Israeli passport, an Israeli ID card, and Israeli

citizenship — and we, our brothers, used to turn our faces away whenever and wherever we met them. Is it acceptable to shake hands with them?"

Abu Mazen went on: "Why did they accept to live under the conditions of submission and remain behind, not following those who left their land in dignity? Why did they hesitate and remain unmoved? Why didn't they turn an ear to the appeal of the great Arab kings and heroic presidents? Is it not enough for them to live under the rule of Zionism, and then to affiliate to the Israeli Communist Party... What struggle does the Communist Party talk about if it does not agree to throw the Jews into the sea? Is this not sufficient reason to shun the Communist Party?"

Abu Mazen ended his introduction with the following questions:

"Isn't it our duty to feel shame? To bow our heads down to show respect? To apologise for what some silly people did? To regret what our hands and tongues did against them? Are we still afraid to be disgraced with descriptions of treason and collaboration if we speak hallowly to them on the radio? Do we still divert our

faces whenever and wherever we see them? Do you not agree, brother, that in this behaviour we willingly or unwillingly serve the schemes of Zionism and its policies? It is not an error to admit and reveal our mistakes and misdeeds on time."

Such courageous people deserve to live and destiny will inevitably bend to their will to live, and Hudba Ben Khashram's "perhaps" will be transformed into reality.

The distress of yesterday evening will be lifted in the near future; the frightened will then be secure, the prisoner released, and the strange wanderers returned.

The return is commendable.

(Translated by Said al-Ghazzali)

*Saliq Ben Salaka was a destitute rebel poet who lived in the pre-Islamic period. His other code pen-name is "Tabata Sharan".

Abu Shamaqmaq is an editor at Al Ittihad daily newspaper. He writes two columns on political, social and literary themes; his style is satirical.

WINDOW ON THE ARAB PRESS



The volatile situation in Lebanon and the uneasy relations between pro-Arafat Fatah fighters and the Syrian government continued to dominate the front pages of all three dailies, this week. PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat, Khalil Wazir (Abu Jihad) and Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad), the three senior leaders of Fatah, were all quoted accusing the Syrian government of "working against the Palestinians."

The declaration of a "civil government" in the Shouf mountains by Walid Jumblatt was the only other story to receive front page coverage in all three Palestinian dailies.

Unity Strengthens NSF

The enemies of the Arab liberation movement will not hesitate for a moment to create disputes within the nationalist forces that will give them the upper hand in future negotiation.

The Lebanese National Salvation Front and Amal proved they can foil these sabotage attempts and unite their forces. This is what allowed them to prevent Phalangist domination and to obtain what they have been calling for all along — national reconciliation talks before the Lebanese Army is deployed in the mountains.

There is no question that resolving the dispute between Fatah and Syria will reinforce the National Salvation Front. The war now is against the Lebanese nationalist forces. This demands that all forces be united to confront these traitorous moves.

AL TALIA
September 29

Mission and Capability

A committee made up of prominent Lebanese personalities is supposed to meet sometime in the future to discuss national reconciliation. What is required of this committee and what can it accomplish?

The members of this committee are the same politicians who used their ethnic groups to build political power, which was the cause of Lebanon's wars. These personalities are not ready to reconcile because that would mean they have to give up their power bases.

National reconciliation in

Lebanon must be based on the abolition of ethnicity, which is why we believe this committee will not be able to bring about reconciliation that will resolve the real economic, social and political problems. As a result, the Lebanese nationalists are urged to remain prepared for any renewed attacks on them by the government and the Phalange party.

AL SHAAB
September 30

Inflating Secondary Issues

The nationality of the observers to supervise the cease-fire in Lebanon is all of a sudden becoming the central problem. The Americans are holding talks with the Syrians. It is discussed at the United Nations Security Council, among the nations represented in the multinational force in Lebanon and between them and Arab countries.

A week ago the civil war in the Shouf was the main crisis. Then the central issue was getting the warring parties to agree on a cease-fire. Now with one in effect, all efforts must be exerted to preserve it. For this reason, observers are needed in Lebanon to supervise it even though all parties concerned are observing it.

The discussions now are whether these observers should be part of the United Nations, as Lebanon and the United States want, or from neutral countries, as Syria and the Soviet Union demand.

Until now the negotiations going on are over this matter considered "crucial" by Syria and the US. And to make it look

important, all the other more decisive and important issues are being neglected. Meanwhile valuable time is being wasted which could be used to resolve the even more crucial Palestinian crisis.

AL QUDS
October 2

The Time Factor

While there is talk about the Palestinian-Lebanese-Syrian steadfastness triangle as the strategic symbol to achieve the Arab people's aspirations, we discover things that contradict this equation. We are referring here to the Syrian siege around Yasir Arafat's Fatah forces.

We know for sure that Syria and Fatah play major roles in this triangle confronting imperialist policies. Fatah leaders on both sides should resolve their dispute and reform the movement not by dividing it but by uniting it.

There is no need to go into the reasons behind the Syrian-Palestinian dispute. But we have the right to know if something is being done to resolve all outstanding differences in the interests of this strategic triangle. Or is what we are hearing nothing more than rhetoric, while the real intentions are to break this triangle.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation, the most revolutionary in this triangle, is capable of correcting mistakes and saving our people — as it is the sole representative of the Palestinians — thus putting an end to Palestinian bloodshed and consolidating alliances with all friends, including Syria and the Lebanese nationalists. All this should be done taking into consideration the time period, or else what is a

revolution?

AL MITHAQ
October 1

Talking does not Lead to Insanity

Our people are being distracted from international affairs because of their local problems. But this does not mean that international problems do not exist. They do and they also influence our local struggle. It is also true that our internal affairs have direct impact on the international relations.

It is important to make these two points clear, especially when the Israeli press ignores international concern over US President Ronald Reagan's politics, which are threatening world peace.

The firm statements by Soviet President Andropov found receptive ears throughout the world. The Soviet leader said "talking did not and will not lead us to insanity." He also said the Soviet government will outline its policies according to the American ones.

Confronting these American policies are important for us here because it is here where the Americans are trying to control us militarily.

The Soviet president announced in his address that it is time for everyone to understand that they are capable of providing for their country and of those friendly nations, whatever the cost.

This declaration is very important for us. We must therefore cooperate in confronting the American imperialism.

AL ITTIHAD
October 4

No other Homeland

Like any nation anywhere, our people want to have their own free homeland. But this does not mean it can be on someone else's land. For this reason we refute the Lebanese foreign minister's statement that the Palestinians should go somewhere else and look for a homeland in an Arab country. The Palestinians did not come to Lebanon to settle it and establish a homeland. They only came as temporary guests.

AL FAJR
October 5

A Nationalist Government

The civil administration whose formation in the Shouf was announced by Walid Jumblatt should be the first step towards building a national government to replace the Phalange regime, which brought destruction to Lebanon.

We have always called for the formation of a nationalist government even if it had to start in the mountain region. And now when this first move is being made, the US president and the Saudi officials are expressing worries over Lebanon, calling against its partition.

We do not consider the civil administration as a step to the partition of Lebanon. We consider it a step to save Lebanon from all its enemies, including the regime. Let this civil administration be the beginning of a national government that will oust the Gemayel regime and all its allies.

AL MITHAQ
October 5



Al Najah University, Nablus.

NUB TAKES NAJAH STUDENT COUNCIL

The National Unity Bloc won an unprecedented walkover victory in Najah University Student Council elections, September 2, after the Islamic Bloc decided to boycott the poll.

The NUB took all nine seats on the student council and 40 seats in the general student assembly. Adnan Milhem, the new chairman of the Student Council, started his one year term, September 3.

The Islamic Bloc withdrew from the poll after election reforms it was demanding were not implemented. The student council constitution requires that a bloc win 51 percent of the vote to win the elections. The Islamic Bloc wanted the seats divided according to the number of votes each candidate won.

Sa'eb Araqat, Najah public information officer, told *Al*

Fajr that the new Student Council has "complete authority and legitimacy."

Araqat said: "It is not easy to change the constitution in a few days. Since there were no rival candidates, the National Unity Bloc won all the seats without elections."

Mohammed Eweis, a member of the outgoing Student Council, told *Al Fajr* that Najah University "deals with its students collectively and not as rival groups."

Because of the Islamic boycott, the election, the electoral propaganda and post-poll festival were cancelled. Last year the National Unity Bloc won 80 percent of the votes.

Adnan Milhem is a junior student in journalism and political science.

IN GAZA

Vandals torch school

Unidentified vandals set fire to al-Zahra Secondary School for girls in Gaza, September 30, destroying student documents, certificates and other official files. Three rooms, the principal's office, the secretary's office and the staff room, were burned. There has been no official comment on the incident.

Sources in Gaza say the arsonists seemed to target student certificates. They could not explain why that should be.

The principle of al-Zahra refused to comment on the incident to the *Al Fajr* correspondent, claiming that it is the responsibility of the officer in charge of education in Gaza. She also refused to give her name to the press.

Asked whether she was frightened of being fired if she gave an opinion, she said, "The instructions force us not to say anything."

Mohammed Hamed Jadi, the Gaza education director, told *Al Fajr*: "I do not have authority to comment on or accuse anyone of the arson." He stated that the Israeli liaison officer for education has such authority. The liaison officer was not available at his office. Sources said that people who saw the fire contacted the Israeli fire brigades but the Israeli expert did not come because he was "on holiday." No one entered the school until all the documents were consumed.

THE WAR IN LEBANON AN INSIDE VIEW

an EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT by
MYA SHONE and RALPH SCHOENMAN

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- the Bombing and Siege of Beirut
- the Destruction of the Palestinian refugee camps in the south
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PERMITS FORCED ON MOONLIGHTING TEACHERS

The Israeli officer in charge of education circulated a regulation to education offices in the West Bank, September 26, requiring all teachers employed in government schools to obtain permits before accepting second jobs in any field. The measure was described by the General Committee of Government School Teachers (GCGST), the unofficial union of West Bank teachers, as "an attempt to undermine the educational system by driving teachers out."

One member of GCGST

told *Al Fajr* that this measure was meant to increase the economic hardships of teachers.

The teacher, who was recently fired from his job without reason, explained that because West Bank teachers are underpaid, they find it necessary to take second jobs in order to cope. The teacher did not deny that the measure was a Jordanian regulation, made to insure full-time service in the field of education, but said that the education department must guarantee

reasonable salaries so that teachers are not forced to supplement their income to provide for their families.

According to comparisons of salaries made by the GCGST, Palestinian teachers receive nearly one-half the salaries earned by Israeli teachers. The committee, which Israeli authorities refuse to recognise, has made several pleas to military authorities, demanding betterment of economic conditions for the teachers. In 1980, government school teachers struck for two months, demanding better pay.

10 cholera cases in Gaza

The number of people suffering from cholera in the Gaza Strip has gone up to 10 this week. The outbreak started September 26. Some patients have been released after treatment at the region's government hospitals. Ten people were in Gaza hospitals, October 1, under observation.

Nine of the 10 cases came from the Shajaeih quarter. The area, with a population of 50,000, is located on the eastern side of Gaza. The other case came from al-Shati refugee camp which has 25,000 residents. It is located six kilometres west of

Shajaeih quarter.

A senior source in the health department in Gaza told *Al Fajr* that his department is distributing anti-cholera capsules and medicines to family members and neighbours of those infected.

The sources said anti-cholera injections are "useless" and therefore there is no comprehensive health-protection campaign in the Strip.

He stated that cases reported so far are "not serious" and there is a suspicion that the

disease originally came from visitors from Jordan. All those infected, however, are from Gaza.

By October 3, only five people remained hospitalised. The health department is reportedly inoculating travellers to Jordan and Egypt.

A committee of 15 doctors is examining patients and searching for the source of the disease.

Medical personnel cannot speak to the press without a permit from the occupation authorities.

Nablus tax hearing postponed

The Military Objections Committee postponed hearing an appeal by 40 residents of Nablus against income-tax officials, October 4. The 40 had been sent questionnaires requiring them to report all assets to the authorities. The plaintiffs' lawyer Raja Shehadeh, who is pursuing the case in the court, was not told why the hearing was postponed.

Last May, residents of Nablus, Jenin, Ramallah and Gaza received forms demanding details of their property, furniture, gold, bank accounts and

cash in hand, electric machines and carpets.

The form was issued by the Israelis under a Jordanian law. The Nablusis refused to complete the form on the basis that it is an attempt to apply Israeli law in the West Bank.

The group's lawyer, Raja Shehadeh, told *Al Fajr* that the form is illegal in content and form. He said the Israelis imposed the form for administrative reasons to facilitate their work in the occupied territories.

One of the 40, Dr Tahsin Shakhshir, a former member of Nablus municipality, said the step is "a pressure imposed on the Palestinian residents."

Shehadeh said there is no relation between the VAT issue and the current case. Israeli High Court issued, last April, an unprecedented 130-page decision stating that there is a contradiction between Jordanian law and the imposition of Israeli VAT on the West Bank and Gaza Strip's residents. Under international law, occupiers cannot tax the occupied.

Neturei Karta launches anti-election campaign

The anti-Zionist Orthodox Jewish Neturei Karta activists started, October 1, a campaign against next month's municipal elections. The 20,000-strong Neturei Karta community will not vote in the elections of the municipality and they are to campaign to try to get other religious people to join the ban.

Rabbi Moshe Hirsch, spokesperson of the organisation, told *Al Fajr* that "Zionist religious parties use pay offs and decrees by religious leaders that voting will accomplish the needs of the Orthodox community."

נטורי
קרתא

Hirsch said they will counter this by "reminding the unorientated potential voters that the previous sages and leaders of the Orthodox community forbade participation in elections

which mold the Golden Calf of Zionism." (The ultra-religious group also forbids its co-religionists to participate in elections where women have the right to vote). Hirsch said the Neturei Karta position is that his people will try to explain to Orthodox Jews that religion cannot be bought off and that participation in Zionist organs like the Agudat Israel Party cannot accomplish as much as by staying out of Zionist organs. "When you join a sacrilegious group you cannot champion religion, just like you cannot fight crime if you join a band of thieves," says Hirsch.

British Labour Party leader supports Palestinian state

Newly elected leader of the British Labour Party, Neil Kinnock, wants a Palestinian state, according to a survey of leadership candidates made by the Labour Middle East Council. Kinnock, the youngest

leader in the party's history, said in his response that a Palestinian state is part of the solution to the problems; that the party "must give full support to the right of the Palestinians to self-determination and that the PLO

is the representative movement of the Palestinians."

Israeli sources, however, report that his newly-elected deputy, Roy Hattersley, has accepted an invitation to visit Israel soon.

WEEKLY REVIEW

September 28, 1983

HEADLINES ON HERMEL

JERUSALEM — The escape of Fatah guerrillas from their besieged positions in Lebanon's Hermel area dominated the main headlines of today's Palestinian dailies.

Al Fajr, *Al Quds* and *Al Sha'ab* used most of their front pages to report on the daring escape of 1000 Palestinian fighters besieged by Syrian tanks for six days. They left Hermel with their weapons.

THE MISSING

BEIRUT — A convoy of Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners seen on the main Nabatiya road disappeared while being taken to an unknown destination, official Beirut radio said.

The radio quoted eyewitnesses who said they saw the prisoners with their heads shaved, legs tied and wearing khaki clothes. The prisoners were greeting people in the streets, the eyewitnesses said.

MORE CHOLERA

GAZA — Four more cholera cases have been confirmed at Gaza Hospital. This makes the number of cases undergoing treatment six.

TIME BOMB

BETHLEHEM — A time bomb was found in the Bethlehem central market area. Israeli sappers were immediately summoned to defuse it.

TAX MEN RAID SHOE FACTORIES

JERUSALEM — Income tax men raided a shoe factory in Khan al-Aqbat in the Old City for the second time and another factory in Ram, outside Jerusalem. One of the owners was arrested after the tax men searched both his factory and home.

OPEN BORDERS?

TEL AVIV — Three Israelis were arrested after they spent a whole day in Lebanon. The men entered Lebanon from Metullah. The men are under interrogation by Israeli police. Meanwhile, Israeli police confiscated 500 cartons of cigarettes smuggled into Israel from Lebanon through the Metullah checkpoint.

DOCTORS PLACED UNDER TOWN ARREST

GAZA — Two Gaza physicians working in Jerusalem were put under town arrest. The two doctors, Mohammed Joudeh from Makassed and Fathi Shaqagi from Augusta Victoria (UNRWA), will lose their jobs because of the order.

US CONGRESS THREATENS MUBARAK

WASHINGTON — United States Congressmen are to demand that Egypt's President Mubarak improve relations with Israel and reinstate the Egyptian ambassador in Israel; otherwise all financial aid to Egypt will be withheld.

Mubarak, who is currently on a visit to Washington, has previously declared that relations with Israel will not return to normal as long as Israel is occupying South Lebanon.

RAMALLAH PRISON

JERUSALEM — Ramallah "Barracks" prisoners asked the Red Cross to intervene with Israeli officials to improve prison conditions. In a list of demands presented to the Red Cross, the prisoners asked that jailers not be allowed into prisoners' rooms where they beat the detainees. They also asked for more food, proper toilet facilities and more showers.

tween IS80,000-160,000 in taxes. The store owners protested this order, but tax officials insist they must pay or be taken to court.

ISRAELI OFFICER CONVICTED OF THEFT

TEL AVIV — A military court convicted an Israeli military officer stationed in Lebanon with theft and other crimes. The officer tried to steal two pairs of swimming trunks.

He was sentenced to two months probation, ordered to pay IS200 and demoted.

ISRAEL GOING BANKRUPT

JERUSALEM — An Israeli newspaper quoted American economic sources as saying Israel will be among the bankrupt nations by 1986.

Israel's deficit is on the increase and its foreign debt is the 19th highest in the world.

September 29, 1983

CHOLERA OUTBREAK

GAZA — Three more cholera

Graduates Union in Hebron celebrated its 30th anniversary. Union officials spoke of the accomplishments of their club, which included establishing the Polytechnic Institute in Hebron and a school.

ELECTRICITY DEPENDENCE

JERUSALEM — Residents of Beit Kahil, Dura, Dhahriyeh and Ibla in Hebron fear Israeli attempts to tie their villages to the Israeli electricity company will be a first step towards linking them to nearby Israeli settlements. These villages have been prevented from developing and improving their own electricity companies. Village League members had also recently cut down electricity pylons in these cities to force their citizens to accept the Israeli offer.

SABRA AND SHATILA NO MISTAKE

The secretary of the Christian organisations in Lebanon, Habib Afram, was quoted on Israel Radio as saying that just as there are some Israelis who believe that Deir Yassin was necessary, the Phalange in

Nablus protested new taxes imposed on them by the Israeli-run municipality. They called for a meeting to discuss the tax.

September 30, 1983

BEWARE OF UNWASHED FOOD

JENIN — Doctors warned citizens here to wash all food before they eat. This warning came after several cholera cases were diagnosed in Gaza.

The Jordan health ministry ordered people not to buy carrot juice from street peddlers.

POSTAGE PRICE INCREASE

Cost of postal services will rise by five percent because of a Knesset Finance Committee decision two weeks ago. The cost of installing telephone lines will rise by nine percent as well.

LAWYER ARRESTED

BETHLEHEM — Tax men arrested lawyer Farid Musleh after they raided his office and confiscated files on his clients. The arrest came after Musleh failed to pay taxes. He was released the same day.

SURPRISE RAID ON CITY STORES

NABLUS — Tax officials raided a number of local stores all during the past week to collect value added tax. The raids came as a surprise to the store owners and the estimates for taxes were made haphazardly, they said.

Local citizens and the Chamber of Commerce urged the authorities to stop these provocations.

POLICE ASK HELP FROM PEACE NOW

TEL AVIV — The police asked Peace Now movement to hand over information it has on the recent plunder of Hebron's downtown market. A spokesman for the movement said his group gave the defence minister all information they have on the incident which came after a Jewish settler, Aharon Gross, was stabbed to death in Hebron.

SPECIAL EDITION

NABLUS — A special 160-page edition of *Risalat al-Najah* magazine was published combining issues of the past three months. The magazine, published by the public relations department at Nahaj University in Nablus, included a number of articles by students and faculty.

The magazine failed to come out for three months because the university was closed by a military order.



Offices of the University Graduates Union in Hebron. The club celebrated its 30th anniversary on September 29.

MISSING ISRAELI SOLDIER

JERUSALEM — An Israeli military spokesman reported an Israeli soldier in Lebanon has been missing for six months. Military sources believe the soldier was "kidnapped" by resistance forces in South Lebanon.

LATE INVESTIGATION

JERUSALEM — Police recently questioned Mohammed Nasr, former head of the Village League in Hebron, in regard to the shooting death of Daoud Atawneh in Beit Kahil in June 1982. Nasr claimed he was elsewhere when the shooting occurred.

TAXES KEEP ON RISING

BETHLEHEM — Tax officials ordered every vegetable store owner in the town to pay be-

cases were diagnosed, bringing the number of cases reported to nine.

HOME DEMOLISHED

BEIRUT — Israeli forces in South Lebanon arrested a Palestinian resident of Ain al-Hilweh refugee camp and demolished his home after they claimed to have found weapons underneath it, Lebanese security sources said.

RESISTANCE CONTINUES

TEL AVIV — An Israeli army post was fired at in Ramid Ellous in South Lebanon, an Israeli military spokesman said. The soldiers returned fire, the spokesman added.

HEBRON ANNIVERSARY

HEBRON — The University

Lebanon believe the Sabra and Shatila massacres were also necessary. He said the Phalange made a mistake when they failed to explain to the Israeli public that Sabra and Shatila was another Deir Yassin.

ANTI-SYRIA DEMONSTRATION

GAZA — A demonstration was held in Bureij refugee camp protesting Syria's anti-Palestinian policies.

CHILDREN'S EXHIBIT

JERUSALEM — A children's exhibit opened at the Beit Hanina branch of Terra Sancta School. The exhibition, which includes the drawings of Randa Makhlouf, will continue until Sunday evening.

MORE TAXES

NABLUS — Shop owners in

October 1, 1983

MORE TAX DEMANDS

BEIT SAHOUR — Grocers and retail traders received notices from the income tax department demanding they pay huge sums in back taxes. Owners complained that the Israeli estimates are unrealistic.

ANSAR DETAINEES TO MOVE TO ISRAEL

TEL AVIV — Lawyer Lea Tsemel asked the military government not to transfer any prisoners in al-Ansar detention camp in South Lebanon to Israeli jails. Tsemel said she made this request after she learned about plans for the transfer of some of the prisoners of war.

MILITARY AIRPORT IN LEBANON

BEIRUT — An Israeli military airport is nearing completion in Khayam, eight kilometres north of the Israeli-Lebanese border, the government-run Radio Lebanon said. Quoting police sources, the radio said one of the two runways, each one kilometre long, is being surfaced. It said the Israeli forces expropriated three square kilometres of land for this purpose.

October 2, 1983

BANNING ARABS FROM MEETING

NAZARETH — The Israeli authorities forbid Arab citizens of Nazareth from holding a meeting to protest extremist acts against them. The Nazarenes objected to the government's support to Jewish extremists who are waging a campaign to stop the Arabs from buying property in predominantly Jewish Upper Nazareth.

SHOTS FIRED AT BUS

TEL AVIV — Four shots were fired late last night at an Israeli bus en route to Kiryat Arba from Jerusalem, Israeli Radio said. No one was injured.

The shots came from a car

which sped away in the vicinity of Eliazar settlement. Roadblocks were erected and the area was combed in search for the attackers.

FUEL PRICES INCREASE

TEL AVIV — Fuel prices increased by 10 percent as of last night and government subsidised consumer goods rose by 6 percent.

A litre of super gasoline will cost IS41.50 and IS36.20 for regular. Diesel fuel will cost

ther services. The 'civil administration' justified their move by claiming the building permits issued by the previous municipality were not legal because that area falls outside Hebron city limits.

Hebron's dismissed acting mayor Mustafa Natsheh rejected the Israelis' justification saying that according to existing maps, that area is included in the city limits.

robbed and another broken into. About JD7000 were taken from the Ismail Nabulsi store, but a police car appeared as the thieves were trying to open the safe of another store. They fled.

STUDENTS SENTENCED

RAMALLAH — Six former students of the Arab Nursing College Student Council were fined IS12,000 and given four months suspended sentences. The students were arrested in the military raid on the college book exhibition last year.

ites to boycott the upcoming municipal elections.

October 4, 1983

HOUSES SEALED

BETHLEHEM — The houses of Khalid and Adan Ajouri and Nidal Egged in Aida refugee camp were sealed during a curfew on the Bethlehem area camp. The owners of the houses have been in detention for over three months after they were accused of belonging to a political organisation.

Another house and a room were sealed in Kfar Malik near Ramallah.

BOOBY-TRAPPED CAR

Israeli sappers defused a booby trap under the car of the military head of the 'civil administration' in Nablus, according to local sources. The military spokesman denied the incident occurred.

A number of arrests were reported.

STONING

An Israeli Egged bus was stoned as it passed near Burin village on the outskirts of Nablus, Israel Radio reported. Two passengers from a nearby settlement were injured.

PEACE NOW VS LEVINGER

Peace Now movement sent a letter to Defence Minister Moshe Arens asking him to speed up the trial of Rabbi Moshe Levinger who is accused of assaulting a soldier in Hebron.

HADDAD HAS CANCER

Lebanese separatist leader Sa'ad Haddad, who has been admitted to Rambam hospital in Haifa, may have cancer, *HaAretz* reported. The paper quoted some sources as saying Haddad's illness is terminal.

IS28.80 per litre and heating fuel IS29.80 per litre.

YOUTH INTERROGATED

Forty-five youths from Ya'bad were summoned by the military governor in Jenin for interrogation.

BUILDING PERMIT STOP IN HEBRON

TEL AVIV — The appointed Israeli mayor of Hebron, Zamir Shemesh, stopped issuing building permits for Arab inhabitants in the Boni Salem area. Boni Salem connects Kiryat Arba with Tel al-Jaabra.

Arabs who already received permits from the dismissed Hebron municipality are denied fur-

SCHOOLYEAR BEGINS

NABLUS — Government-run schools opened in the West Bank. The entry age has been raised this year and children born in September-December (1977) were not allowed to enroll in the first grade.

October 3, 1983

STUDENT COUNCIL

NABLUS — The National Bloc won all seats on al-Najah University Student Council in a walk-over victory after the Islamic Bloc withdrew.

JEWELRY STORE ROBBED

NABLUS — A local jeweler's was

LAND BELONGS TO OWNERS

RAMALLAH — The Military Objections Committee killed a land grab order against two West Bank citizens from Khirbat Um al-Dinain, near Ramallah.

HADDAD ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL

HAIFA — Lebanese dissident leader Sa'ad Haddad was admitted to Rambam hospital in Haifa for tests.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS BOYCOTT

TEL AVIV — The anti-Zionist Neturei Karta Orthodox Jewish organisation called on Jerusalem-

continued from page 13

Journalists

Hanna Amira, another member of the administrative board, told *Al Fajr* that the association has found understanding with the press owners in this regard. Amira explained that the position of the association is very sensitive "because the owners are Palestinians and they promote the Palestinian cause." Therefore, he added, the association tries to build a good relationship "which can stand on a basis of national unity."

Another major advance the association has sponsored, and which is still in its first stages, is a programme to build apartments for the journalists. The association has already purchased lands in Bethlehem and Ramallah and obtained construction permits. Most journalists presently live in rented apartments and are paying sky-rocketing rents from static salaries. "The achievement of these projects," said Mohammed Abu

Libdeh, a journalist from the closed *Al Shira* magazine, "will alleviate the economic burden and pressure on the Palestinian journalists and help them do a better job among their people."

The association has not restricted its activities to union affairs, but has taken its part in the general political struggle of the Palestinians in the occupied territories against the Israeli occupation. For example, said Akram Haniyeh, the association has initiated and taken part in demonstrations to protest acts of oppression and harassment against journalists and Palestinians in general. He added that many protest letters have been sent to international bodies. The latest activity of the union was the press strike to protest the forced closure of *Al Shira* magazine last month.

Critical Attitudes

Although the journalists who are members in the association attach great importance to the existence of a body

to represent them, some are critical of it, either for "the deficiencies or for the way it handles the problems of the journalists."

Sam'an Khoury, the editor of English *Al Fajr*, said that the current administrative board does not place the workers' interest as a priority when dealing with the owners. "Journalists express their grievances constantly to the AJA board regarding working conditions, income and treatment of the owners, but the board does not use all legitimate means available to negotiate their demands."

Khoury also places blame on the association for insufficient follow-up of the cases of arrested journalists. But at the same time he admits that there has been development and progress in the role of the association in this regard.

Other journalists echo Khoury's sentiments and some of them even

expressed worry about the overall role of the association. "It has achieved only a small part of its declared programme," says Kamel Jbeil, Arabic *Al Fajr*'s Ramallah correspondent. He added that the association does not put enough pressure on the newspaper owners, "who deal with the journalists as if they only need the press institutions," to improve the social conditions and the salaries of the journalists.

Administrative board members do not deny inadequacies, and they attribute this to adverse conditions. Hanna Amira, explained that the fact that the journalists come from remote places in the West Bank and that they work long hours makes it difficult for them to join fully in the activities of the union and take more interest in it. He added that also the lack of experience has been behind some of the deficiencies. "But we hope in the future," he said, "the association will do a better job."

The scouts of the Young Men's Muslim Association usually parade through the streets of Jerusalem to celebrate the feast of al-Adha. This year the bagpipes and drums were silent as the scouts laid wreaths on the Tomb of the Martyr in memory of the victims of Sabra and Shatila.

Like scouts the world over, the over 25 Palestinian scouting units in the West Bank and Gaza wear the badge of the World Brotherhood of Scouting. As there is no umbrella organisation for Palestinian scouts, the different groups remain active within various religious and civic clubs. But under the political and social conditions of occupation and statelessness, Palestinian scouts together perform a special role in their community.

Founded in 1907, international scouting unites millions of youth under broad principles of duty to religion and country and service to others. In Palestine, *kashaf* (scout clubs) date from the early '20s. Palestinian scout clubs began as essentially isolated groups, under the auspices of civil and religious institutions. The first scout troops in Palestine were established under the sponsorship of missionary schools. An Anglican priest in Jerusalem started the first Palestinian unit in 1922. Two years later, the Franciscans of Jerusalem initiated their own, with other Christian sects following suit soon after. Their Muslim counterparts were not established until the early '40s. As early as 1930, the First Ramallah Unit was established as nonsectarian.

Fawzi Nashashibi, a probation officer during the British Mandate, translated English scout manuals into Arabic and is credited with making the initial efforts to unite Palestinian clubs. In 1934, 1944, 1946 and 1947, general parades were held in Jaffa, Ramallah, Nazareth and Ramle. Until 1946, Palestinian scouts were part of the Commonwealth union of scouts. For three years, from 1946 until the outbreak of the 1948 war, they were federated under the Palestinian Union of Scouts. According to Fouad Hodaly, a veteran of 33 years of scouting and founder of the first *kashaf* in Beit Jala, scouts were instrumental in operating first-aid units during the 1948 war. Like Palestine itself, the war dismembered Palestinian scout groups from one another.

Under Jordanian rule, most Palestinian scouts were equipped by and trained through the department of education. Palestinian clubs formed a part of the Jordanian Scouts Union, itself a member of the Arab Scouts Bureau, under sponsorship of the Arab League.

Since 1967, says Hodaly, "We're just a name in the Jordanian Scouts Union." Material aid is not available and there is no channel for federating Palestinian clubs. In 1974, according to Ramon Abu Ramez, founder and scout master of the Jerusalem First Scout Group, Israel subsumed West Bank scouts under its control by tying them to the social welfare office. West Bank and Gaza scouts are not represented, however, by the Israeli Union of Scouts although Palestinian clubs inside the 1948 borders of Israel march under the Israeli flag. Nor do they want to be. This is the reason, says Abu Ramez, for the lack of cooperation between Palestinians inside Israel and those in the West Bank and Gaza: "We would like to be our own scouts, neither Israeli nor Jordanian."

Permits and Raids

The main centre of scouting in the West Bank is in the Bethlehem-Jerusalem-Ramallah area where 20 sep-

Scouting for Palestine

by Steve Tamari

arate groups are concentrated. There are units in the Nablus and Jenin areas as well. The scout masters and *shabab* (scout youth) interviewed agreed that restrictions imposed on West Bank clubs have progressively increased since the Israeli occupation began. Scouts of the First Ramallah Unit, with 400 active members one of the largest troops, said the last three years have been the most difficult. Permits are required for outdoor activities, clubs have been raided by soldiers, books are either banned or confiscated and efforts to attend international jamborees — particularly those sponsored by the Arab scout unions — have been blocked. Outdoor activities are so restricted by the Israeli military authorities that most groups camp on private grounds, usually areas under the jurisdiction of religious institutions. Comments Nasif Hosouri of First Ramallah: "The point of scouting



during curfews, First Ramallah scouts say they deliver necessities and food to the needy at Kalandia and al-Am'ari camps and plan to start a bloodbank. The Shoufat scouts operated mobile first aid units in the Haram when an Israeli settler went on a shooting spree last April. The Hilal al-Muqdas of Jerusalem is particularly involved during the holy month of Ramadan in aiding the sick. Mohammed Roubin, scout master at the Hilal club, comments from his 20 years of scouting experience: "The scout is like a soldier without a gun. Instead of carrying a gun he carries a helping hand." The voluntary work of scout youth is viewed not only as "service to others," as stipulated by the scout pledge, but as a collective response to the oppression faced by the Palestinian community at large.

The scout masters interviewed rarely put community service in



Above, the Papal Troop of Beit Jala, circa 1950; right, the Hilal group marches in Jerusalem: developing self-reliance for the benefit of the Palestinian community.



is to achieve...this is impossible when one has to get a permit to go on a picnic." Nasif's group is required to get a permit even to erect tents on the quarter acre plot adjoined to the clubhouse.

Community Consciousness

Scout masters and scouts alike echo the creed of the Scout Promise and Law: duty to god, loyalty to country, honesty and service to others. As Palestinians under occupation, they feel scout groups play a special role in educating Palestinian youth to, as Nasif puts it, "make us feel like a family, to have self-confidence and be self-reliant as Palestinians."

More significant for scouts and scout masters, however, is the role of the *kashaf* in promoting voluntary work and educating youth about their national heritage and the geography of Palestine. When military authorities bulldozed three homes in Beit Sahour in November 1980, the local scouts initiated clean-up and reconstruction operations, providing tents for the homeless. Since the Israeli dismissal of the elected municipality of Ramallah last year, scouts have taken on such neglected functions as road clearing and garbage collection. In winter and

explicit national or political terms. Hodaly put it this way: "The development of the individual leads to the development of the community... strong ties between neighbours affects a national role." Says Abu Ramez: "Help yourself and you will help your family and your community."

Self-reliance

Scouts are taught to depend on themselves: how to operate in times of emergency, to excel in recreational and cultural activities and to be aware of their national heritage and geography. Individual success is rewarded through a merit system and leadership responsibilities. Says Ibrahim Younan, a 20-year-old scout, "the scout learns to trust himself but he also learns to cooperate with others as a team and someday he may become a leader." Camping is intended to build survival skills, self-reliance, cooperation and understanding of the geographical environment. Scout clubs engage in sporting activities: football, basketball, ping pong and chess are the most popular. Scout masters, scout leaders and guest lecturers hold classes in traditional Palestinian crafts, *debke* line dancing and offer lectures in Palestinian history and social issues, the Palestinian family for example.

The typical scout troop has three age groups for boys, two for girls; each age division is headed by elected leaders. The 'cubs' are boys between five and 12, the 'eagle' scouts age 12 to 16 and 'rovers', 16 on up. Girls from 5 to 16 are called 'flowers', the older girls, 'girl guides.'

Randa Attallah of Jerusalem First Scout Group is adamant that girls are willing and able to do the same activities as the boys. In her troop they do. Girls are involved in all aspects of volunteer work and camp with the boys, although they are usually fewer in number. Girl scouts have their own scout council but they also have seats on the general scout council. Randa complains that it is difficult to get parental permission for girls to engage in scout outings and for them to go to the club more than once or twice a week.

"There is more freedom for boys, but we are fighting for our rights," says Attallah. Girls are encouraged to address the social and political problems that face them. Established family and social circumstances lead to the isolation of women, she says. The club, "outside the segregated atmosphere of the schools, provides girls with the opportunity to take up activities they are normally denied."

In terms of club organisation, Abu Ramez distinguishes between 'independent' scout groups such as the one he heads and those he says are 'under control.' The Jerusalem First Scout Group is run jointly by a scout council elected by scout leaders and by a board elected by the parents of the scouts. The scout council directs the activities of the group while the board advises on financial matters. Funds are drawn from members' dues, community contributions and the sale of calendars. First Ramallah is similarly run and both are nonsectarian.

As the military authorities forbid parades on national occasions, religious feasts provide the occasion for marches. The nonsectarian groups march on as many holidays as they can fit into their schedule. The Hilal has marched in Bethlehem on the Latin Christmas as have Orthodox and Armenian groups. Those 'under control,' Abu Ramez says, are run by religious institutions. For the most part, Muslim groups parade on Muslim holidays, Greek Orthodox clubs on their feasts and so on. Many sectarian groups march under flags representing their religious identification. Indoor lectures sometimes focus on religious instruction. The importance of religion varies from group to group.

Palestinian scouts are proud of their accomplishments in the face of increasing restrictions. They are pressing for independent international representation, federation of local groups and contacts with the international federation. At the Hilal club office, flags from groups in Jordan, Germany, Austria and Sweden are displayed. Swedish delegations have visited both the Hilal and First Ramallah. But Palestinian scouts were forbidden, for example, to join the Arab Scouts Union jamboree held in Alexandria, Egypt this year. In May 1981 efforts were made to establish a Palestinian secretariat to represent Palestinian scouts at the international headquarters in Switzerland. One scout master alleged that correspondence to this effect was confiscated by the Israeli military authorities. Plans are underway to achieve representation under the PLO. Under the present circumstances and judging from the history of the Palestinian *kashaf*, the success of such endeavours is doubtful. Palestinian scouts will continue, however, to play a special role in educating for patriotism and national cooperation under the conditions of occupation and statelessness.